



*We can't bring you GRAPEVINE but we  
can bring you an Offshoot*

# Welcome



*Poynton Parish Church*



**From the Vicarage  
August 2020**



Dear Friends,

I want to begin with a big 'thank you' – for the welcome that my wife Kate and I have received as we've moved to Poynton. A new house, new jobs and a new part of the country means lots of change – made even stranger by the Covid 19 crisis. Our 'goodbye' to our last parish and our 'hello' into this one have not been 'normal'.

We've moved to Poynton from Farnborough, Hampshire (home of a small airport and a major Airshow – which means we've sometimes had the Red Arrows flying over our garden). I was, for nearly 8 years, Associate Minister at St Peter's in Farnborough and Kate was working at Frimley Park Hospital as an Emergency Medicine Consultant.

In the past few months we have all seen our lives altered, the things we took for granted and the freedoms we enjoyed suddenly curtailed. But in the midst of disruption and trouble there are many stories of people caring for each other, taking more time to phone friends and looking out for neighbours. Those able to get out for a daily walk perhaps appreciating the beauty of the countryside and the quieter traffic. As I had my haircut last week, the barber spoke about the way in which he saw lockdown and more people walking reviving the tradition of saying "Hello" to those we see out and about – at a safe social distance!

Now that many things are beginning to reopen and restart we have the opportunity to evaluate how we are spending our time, energy and money. Rather than rushing back to 'normal', can I encourage you to take this moment to begin to think about God's priorities and your priorities for the coming weeks and months? Colossians 2:6-8 says to

us:

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."

How are you thinking about the future? Where are you seeking wisdom? Are you allowing your thoughts and plans to be guided by God – can I encourage you to seek his wisdom, for whatever decisions you have to make?

Many things about how we live day by day have changed in the light of Covid, but we are still called to follow God's ways each day. One of the things that can really help us is the support, advice and fellowship of other Christians.

We are beginning to meet together in person for worship in our buildings at St George's and St Martin's, and we can meet with one another as the rules allow in small groups and continue to use phone and Zoom to connect. The joy of belonging to a church family is that we are brothers and sisters, and we can each take part in promoting that sense of belonging.

As God's people we are called to worship together in a particular place, as Gordon Laythrop puts it: "The church is not a centralised, universal, faceless society. It is always a local gathering of people with their leaders, around the Scriptures and the sacraments, knowing Christ risen and here" (Laythrop, *Holy People, A Liturgical Ecclesiology*, p64).

At this new season, might we commit ourselves to joining in with the gathered local worship of God – either by our active participation in worship services or, if we are unable to be physically present, by our prayers and phone calls or messages of encouragement.

And as we spur one another on to grow in grace and maturity in Christ, we ask for God's help to see those in need and those who are searching for hope and purpose. Might a conversation you have on your doorstep or on a walk be part of someone beginning to find a home, taking the next step on their journey of faith in Christ?

Yours in Christ,

*Matthew*



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The family and friends of those who have recently died:



Keith James Hood	6 July	aged 85
Susan Nuttall	16 July	aged 67
Ethel Smith	23 July	aged 96
Kathleen Wood	17 August	aged 96
Chris Burton	19 August	aged 82
Irene Woolfenden	20 August	aged 93
Florence Maureen Gregory	21 August	aged 86

### The Gift of Life

Heavenly Father,  
We give you thanks  
for the precious gift of life  
you have given to each of us.

May we treasure this gift  
as your gift of love,  
a gift which you bestow  
respecting our freedom  
to use it  
as we choose, for good or ill.

May we respect this  
same gift given to all  
for we are,  
each and everyone,  
made in your image  
and likeness.

May we uphold the sanctity  
of this gift of life  
and always seek  
to safeguard it  
for those who are  
weak and vulnerable  
in our world. Amen.

© *The Prayer Trust*

## The Joy of Ice Cream for the Joy of Freedom. Just-Ice is Served!

Late last year it was suggested to me by a contact at Chester Diocese that I should visit an exciting social justice initiative in Derby. I began to research Just-Ice Derby and their vision captured my imagination and has stayed with me ever since.

Gavin and Sally Murray were heading up a Baptist church near Wimbledon when they felt called to uproot their young family and move to Derby to work amongst victims of people trafficking. They have since created a social enterprise where they have great fun making the best premium ice cream you've ever tasted, using only natural and fair-trade ingredients. And at the same time creating sympathetic employment for survivors of human trafficking, restoring their dignity and giving them hope and a future.



Christine Buckley and I spent a day with Gavin in January. His story – and those of the recovering victims of modern slavery who he has been able to help since setting up Just-Ice – was the most moving and inspiring thing I have heard in a long time. People trafficking is a huge problem with 40.3 million people in forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude worldwide including here in the north of England, not very far from our own comfortable homes and lives. It is one of the most serious and barbaric crimes, profiting from human misery.

**Modern slavery is where one person controls another by exploiting a vulnerability. It is often linked with human trafficking, where a person is forced into a service against their will – usually forced work or prostitution. The control can be physical, financial or psychological.**

When I first heard about Just-Ice we were studying the early chapters of Isaiah at church and in home groups and I was struck by the themes coming out of our studies. Themes of injustice in society, of a social elite rising up and becoming obsessed with materialism whilst others were downtrodden. And God crying out in compassion for people to take notice of his love and justice. As our sermon and study series moved on in the spring to Luke's gospel, we saw John the Baptist answering the questions of the crowds, the soldiers and the religious leaders by pointing out the same principle: share what you've got. Be fair. Do what you can

to bring about justice in the world. And then in our Bible teaching we learnt about Jesus going to those who were on the edges of society. Those who were marginalised, forgotten and ignored such as the man with an unclean spirit in Luke 4 and the paralysed man and the leper in Luke chapter 5. We even saw Jesus setting out his manifesto in these early stages of his ministry:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4v18-19). I couldn't help but connect in my head and heart what Just-Ice are doing in setting an example of Christians living out Jesus's compassion in the world, with the very principles we have been learning as a church in our recent Bible teaching.

Just-Ice now have two ice cream cafes in the Derby area and two 'mobile ice cream shops' which they take out to events such as weddings, private functions and summer fun days. Named after William Wilberforce, Wilbur is a specially converted trike who can serve 6 different flavours of ice cream from under his parasol. Rosa is a double horse box, which has been lovingly restored to be able to serve 10 ice cream flavours for an outdoor venue. She is designed for a garden setting or alongside other street food vendors. She also has the benefit of being able to serve milkshakes made from Just-Ice artisan ice cream and delicious waffles with an ice cream topping of choice. Of course, the cafes serve coffee, snacks, homemade soup and light lunches as well as the delicious home-made ice cream.

Just-Ice say this about their values:

**OUR VALUES ARE Freedom, fairness, fun and friendship**

*We are a family business who love using the joy of ice cream for the joy of **freedom**.*



*Only **FairTrade** vanilla, chocolate and sugar is good enough for us and we only use natural delicious ingredients in our ice creams and sorbets.*

*We bank with Reliance bank and are working for a carbon neutral footprint to ensure we are trading as ethically and **fairly** as possible.*

*We have a whole lot of **fun!***

*We believe that **no one** should be forced into slavery. We intend to be a voice for those that have no voice, create community and **friendship** through providing employment and stability for survivors of modern slavery.*

Gavin and Sally's vision is to expand Just-Ice into their neighbouring counties through franchise opportunities with like-minded partners. Since Christine and I visited in January this year, we have been praying and seeking God's will as to whether Poynton could be the place for the first Just-Ice franchise.

We have seen God's blessing in that a small group of St George's folk has formed with interest in this project – and relevant skills. We have continued to pray for God's guidance, relying on Him to lead and provide in His perfect timing. We have continued discussions with Gavin and Sally and are looking into registering a charity for Just-Ice Poynton. We've been actively looking for premises on Park Lane, although the first couple of shops we have considered have not been quite right.

If you're enthused by Just-Ice's vision and would value a Christian café in the heart of our community, please join us in prayer as we seek God's will and check out [www.just-ice.org](http://www.just-ice.org) or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JustIceCreamUK>. And please do have a word with Christine Buckley, Deborah Myers, Alison Moverley or myself. Many thanks for your support!



Jo Rodman - 0788 7542000

**Kacper, in his early twenties, is from Poland. He was trafficked by other Polish men who promised to find him well-paid work in the UK, but then forced him into slave labour under threat of violence.**

*In 2013, Kacper met some men who promised to find him well-paid work in the UK. They arranged to bring him over to the UK by coach.*

*When he finally arrived, Kacper found that he was being forced to work in multiple places, including car washes. He was moved from place to place; his working conditions were poor; and he was never paid for the work he did.*

*When Kacper spoke to his traffickers about how badly he was being treated, they threatened violence not only against him, but also against his family, claiming that they knew his home address in Poland, and that they would go there and hurt his relatives.*

*They also showed him a collection of weapons that they said they would use on anyone who went against them.*

*This continued for about eight months, after which, despite being exhausted and fearful, Kacper eventually found the courage to run away. He sought help, and was referred to the Salvation Army, where he received support and accommodation in a safe house for several months. Once he was strong enough, staff helped him to find employment which was legal, fair and sympathetic to his situation.*

Jo Rodman

## Some August Dates

### 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> National Allotments Week.

No, I didn't know either but the National Trust told me!

So allotment holders in Poynton were able to celebrate (socially distanced of course) using their patio and new shed up behind the Bride Shop at the top of Coppice Road. It has been very busy up there during lockdown as holders have had some unexpected time to work on their patch. The Town Council rents the plots and deals with allotment matters including the waiting list. A few years ago there were about 40 applicants on that list, but at the moment there are about half that number. Even so that might mean a 4 year wait for keen growers and sadly there is no sign of any allotment in the plans for new housing on the west of the village.

However, if any growers eventually have a surplus of onions or tomatoes we have a recipe for chutney which comes highly recommended by the editorial team!



## Apple Chutney

2lb onions

4lb apples

¾ cloves garlic

2 pints malt vinegar

8oz each chopped dates and sultanas

1.5lb dark soft brown sugar

2 level teaspoons each of cinnamon and ginger

1 level teaspoon mixed spice

¼ to ½ tsp cayenne (optional)

3 – 4 tsp of salt

Little bag containing pickling spice (1 tablespoon, bay leaf and 4 cloves)

### Method:

Chop onions finely, put in large pan with just enough water to cover and cover with lid. Simmer for 15 mins. Peel and core apples and mince (I put in food processor). Add to pan with crushed garlic, half the vinegar and all the remaining ingredients. Bring to boil and then simmer for 45 mins. Stir occasionally. Add rest of vinegar. Bring to boil stirring occasionally. Lower heat and cook uncovered for 2 hours or until jam like consistency achieved. Remove spice bag and pot into warmed jars. This recipe makes about 8+ jars.

(House smells for a while!)

### Apple and Green Tomato Chutney

Same as above but use 2lb apples and 2lb tomatoes

### Apple and Plum Chutney

Same as above but use 2lb apples and 2lb plums



*Valerie Vibrans*

Only Robinson Crusoe had everything done by Friday

# The Tale of Eyam Village

A tailor travelled to London  
In 1665,  
Little did he know that  
In four days he would lose his life.

He travelled back to Eyam,  
In the Derbyshire countryside,  
Delivered his cloth for cutting  
Then went to bed and died.



By October 1666  
Just 43 had survived,  
In August '66 alone  
78 people died.

Food left at the village border  
Vinegar soaked coins to pay,  
Bodies buried all over,  
No service or prayers to say.



St Lawrence Church self quarantined in the 17th century

The disease was in the cloth,  
The plague was here to kill,  
Rat infested London sent  
Death to the village on the hill.

Soon the vicar and his sexton  
Closed the village off to all,  
A year in isolation  
Saw most of the villagers fall.



350 lived there  
257 died,  
Entire families all wiped out  
All future hopes denied.

The tale of Eyam village,  
Well known countrywide  
Of courage, thought and suffering  
And memories of those who died.

With thanks to Christ Church, Woodford

## All Change!

In these very strange times there is certainly a lot of change to be dealt with. A phrase which comes to mind, especially perhaps to the mind of those more than usually resistant to change is "change and decay in all around I see." Perhaps less gloomy is another option - "Through all the changing scenes of life".

Yet the two hymns from which these quotations come (Mission Praise 4 and 702) both serve to remind us that our chief source of strength and comfort is God who is change-less in His care and concern for us no matter what the circumstances or our own personal situation.

"Change and decay in all around I see" is followed by the line "O Thou who changest not, Abide with me" and verse 6 of 702 reminds us that "He'll make your wants His care".

Change is not necessarily change for the worse - progress need not always be a source of worry or concern but may bring benefits or improvement.

Susan Warrington

**Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine!**

## Covid 19 Nursery Rhymes

**Jack and Jill write:** "We are in dire need of a pail of water - are we allowed to go up the hill together to fetch one, or should we go separately? And if we both fall down, and come tumbling within six feet of each other will we be arrested?"

**Mary Mary writes:** "I run a gardening centre. I want to reopen but, on the contrary, fear that I shouldn't. I want to sell silver bells and cockleshells but am worried that my pretty maids in a row breach social distancing guidelines. Should I stay closed?"

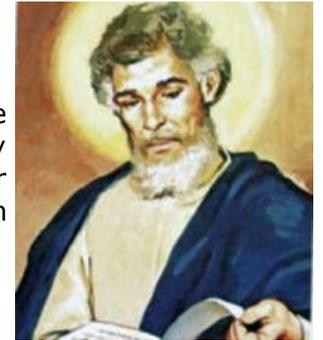
**A cow writes:** "I have been planning a flight of a lifetime over the moon. Will I have to be quarantined on the moon, and on my return?"

**A teddy bear writes:** "This may come as a big surprise but I want to go on a picnic down in the woods with a number of my friends. Well, with every bear that ever there was, in fact. And today is the day, is this legal?"

## More August Dates

### 24<sup>th</sup> St Bartholomew's Day.

Bartholomew, one of the early apostles, was born in Cana in Galilee. Some identify him as Nathaniel but it seems that, like many of the apostles, he travelled some distances to proclaim the Gospel. He incurred the anger of the authorities by converting Polymius, the King of Armenia and died at Albanopolis as a result, He was flayed alive and then either beheaded or crucified. His Feast Day is celebrated on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Western Christianity though in the Eastern Churches his Day falls in June. The Parish Church of Wilmslow is dedicated to him.



### 29<sup>th</sup> Poynton Show

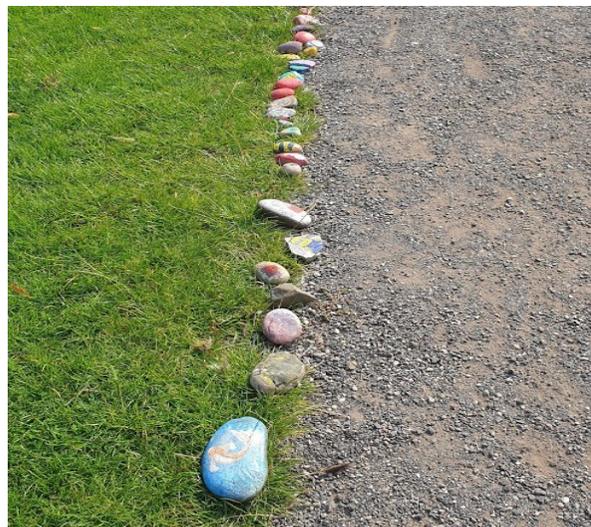
Of course, sadly, the Show will not take place this year but since its foundation in 1885 only years of wartime had caused cancellation until Covid 19 arrived.

Its full title of Poynton Horticultural and Agricultural Show indicates Poynton's strong background of agriculture as well as its mining heritage and although there are perhaps not as many competitors for cups and medals awarded for the produce and livestock as in the early days, there are still plenty of impressive entries to attract the visitors who come to admire the sheep and cattle and the shire horses and enjoy the entertainments in the ring and round the grounds of Poynton Park. We just hope that things will be back to normal next year.

S. W.

*Poynton Show 2019*

Meanwhile the Park has a strange collection of snakes in the Park!! Fortunately they are not poisonous but just stones, often decorated by children, though not exclusively, to honour the NHS and commemorate this very strange year. In order to preserve them and to avoid further damage to Council mowing machines, plans are in hand to move some to the centre of the village where more people can enjoy them.



## **Lucy Carman – Office Manager**

I've been working as the Office Manager for St George's and St Martin's since November 2019 – and time has flown!

My first six months in the job have been busy – filled with new systems and processes to learn, new people to meet and diaries to juggle. I've quickly learnt that there's no such thing as 'a normal day in the office' and, in between starting the job during an interregnum and then coronavirus and the subsequent lockdown hitting, things have been even less normal than normal!

The highlight of the job is definitely the people – it's been so lovely to get to know new people, and to see you round and about in Poynton. It's nice to be so connected to the place in which I work.

Just to give a bit of background on myself: I've lived in Poynton for eight years, having moved here from London when my husband, Elliot, got transferred with the BBC. I'm originally from Sheffield, and my husband is from Redcar, so it's good to be back up north! I also have family still in Sheffield so it's good to be close to them again.

I have three children, Millie (15), Alfie (12) and Theo (10) who attend Poynton High School and Vernon Primary. We also have a cockerpoo, Lola. With a bustling household, life is never dull! It's been a challenge, during the lockdown, to juggle our own jobs with trying to home school the kids and manage sibling rivalry – it's felt a little like having caged animals at times! But it's been such an encouragement to be part of two church families during this time – both my home church (PCF) and the church I work among. To know that we are praying for each other, to have the encouragement of online church, and to be able to stay connected has been a huge help. To also have the hope and peace that a risen Christ brings, when all around can seem overwhelming and fearful, has sustained me in difficult times.

As the church now enters its next phase, with a new vicar and a new sort of 'normal' for us all to get used to, I look forward to continuing to build relationships – both within the church and between the church and the community – as we continue to spread God's light and life in Poynton and beyond.



**Never put off to tomorrow the things you can do the day after tomorrow. (Mark Twain)**



## Men's Event - Pizza Making

Food events are always a success as a men's event and the recent pizza night wasn't any different. Based on the success of the chef demo night last year, we decided to have another. Ordinarily we'd have been cooking together in one kitchen but this time we had to do it slightly differently. So, on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday Kitchen came to Brookfield Avenue and 'chef' Coleman gave a pizza making demo over Zoom.

We had a great group and it was fun working through each stage of the process together. Everyone made their own dough and created their own frying pan pizza at home, producing the best pizza you can make without a pizza oven! It's so simple and tasty that some people have already made it again for their families.

Everyone had a great result but there were some suspicions that some hidden helpers were working hard in the background and Livo managed to roll out his base into such a perfect circle that it could have been mistaken as being bought from Tesco!

Keep an eye out for the next event and we hope to see you then! If you'd like to hear more about the men's events at St George's and St Martin's please email

[mensevents@poyntonparishchurch.org](mailto:mensevents@poyntonparishchurch.org)



*Matt Coleman*



## **A Worldwide Pandemic Didn't Stop 1<sup>st</sup> Poynton (St. George's) Brownies Having Fun.**

The last time we were all together was our last Brownie meeting before lockdown when we were escorted around Poynton by our PCSOs when we were Environmental Detectives, looking for clues in our local area, about what needs changing to make our environment healthier. Our findings were sent to the Mayor of Poynton, and she very kindly replied.

A chip shop supper followed, ordered from The Strawberry Pig, which was lovely.

Since then, the girls have been working on activities sent by email by the leaders, and many of them have completed lots of badges, including the new Bronze and Silver Awards. At present it is not possible to obtain a Gold Award as this involves individual Brownies completing all six theme awards, which includes 20 hours of unit activities, all of which are not possible to do without other Brownie members.

Ten Brownies took their Clever Cogs Challenge (women in engineering) Badge, and to do this they had to make a bridge out of any materials they could find around the house, build a boat which would float in the bath or paddling pool, and make and fly a paper plane.

Other activities included painting a pebble with a positive message, (many of which joined the snake in Poynton Park), doing good turns, recognise and use tools and safety equipment and making a house for a hedgehog. The Brownies learnt how to use kitchen utensils and cooked with them, went for a country walk and took care of their feet afterwards, (a few Mums were also rewarded with a lovely pedicure by their daughter). They made a room out of a large box, they looked at what jobs were around and what they could achieve in the future, and completed a quiz on 'need versus want'.

Our last meeting was a Zoom meeting which was full of laughter, and really good fun to virtually see one another again. The Brownies had a scavenger hunt, sang happy birthday to a Brownie who had turned eight on that day, undertook a quiz on how much things cost and had a discussion on how to use money wisely. Three girls were presented with their leaving certificate by their Mums, and the Guide Leader of the unit which two of the girls are going on to joined our Zoom meeting to welcome them to Guides.

We do not know when we shall be able to return to our regular meetings, it is all dependent on the decisions made by the Church regarding using the hall again, and Girlguiding allowing us to start up our meetings again.

Should we not be able to meet in September, we shall have a Zoom meeting every week, until we can see each other again, face to face.



*Alyson Jarvis*

*Guider 1<sup>st</sup> Poynton (St. George's) Brownies.*

**When my son was preparing to take his Driving Test he used to drive us to Church every Sunday. That way we were already praying when we arrived!**

**If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it.**

## 11th Poynton Brownies

3rd March and our last Brownie meeting: the circumstances beyond our control. It was so disappointing to us all and five of our girls were due to make their Brownie Promise the following week. We could not lose contact with the girls, so initially an exclusive Facebook page was set up (with parents permission, of course). I also delivered and posted letters and activities to the Brownies to encourage them to continue with their interest in 'Grow your own', 'Aviation' and 'Collecting' were encouraged and they have managed very well to achieve these.

Then inspiration! I had participated in a few Zoom meetings; why not have Zoom meetings? Jenny Wren, our leader in training, was able to set this up and we have been meeting virtually since 16th June.

The Brownies love the meetings and respond very well and our young leaders and Dragonfly have all joined in. Thank you to all our parents who have patiently waited in the background whilst their daughters have taken over the computer for one and a half hours each Tuesday evening! We are taking August off and then back to virtual meetings in September. The five Brownies made their Promise on Zoom.

Vivienne Metcalfe - Wise Owl



**Please Go Away (Notice on the Travel Agent's Door)**

**Every survival kit should include a sense of humour**

## Answers (in red) to the last edition's Summer Quiz

1. In July each year, the Annual Wife carrying World Championship is held in which country? **Finland**
2. How many kilos of strawberries are consumed at Wimbledon:  
a) 20,000 b) 27,000 c) 35,000? **27,000**
3. The month of June is named after the Roman Goddess of what? **Marriage**
4. What Saint's Day falls on 15th July? **St Swithen**
5. The August Bank Holiday was created by the Bank Holiday Act in which decade of the 19th century? **1870s (1871)**
6. Now a museum, Castle Gandolfo in Italy was formerly whose summer residence? **The Pope**
7. Beach Hut 413 on Mudeford Spit in Dorset sold for a record price in 2017. How much (£25k leeway)? **£295,000**
8. Since 1950, the Met Office considers 4 years to be the hottest on record, each with an average temperature of 15.8\*. One point for each correct year. **1976, 2003, 2006, 2018**
9. Where are the Summer Isles? **West Coast of Scotland**
10. Where in the U.K. is Summertown? **Oxfordshire**
11. In which months does British Summer Time begin and end? **March and October**
12. What is the other name for the Dog Star? **Sirius**
13. Where was 'Last of the Summer Wine' filmed? **Holmfirth**
14. Shall I compare thee to a 'Summer's Day' is a line from which Shakespeare Sonnet? **Sonnet No. 18**
15. 'Though she is but little, she is fierce' is a line from which of Shakespeare's plays? **Midsummer Night's Dream**