



May 2021

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

Welcome



Poynton Parish Church



For two weeks in preparation for our Annual Meeting we've thought about vision for the future – what is God calling us to be and to do as a church. We know that it can be hard to plan too far ahead, particularly after the year of uncertainties and changes we've seen because of Covid. But I am convinced that we are called to focus our mission and ministry in this next season together under three headings – faith, hope and love:

faith – growing in our knowledge and love of God, through study of the Bible, and worship and prayer.

hope – knowing that we have good news for all, offering ways of exploring that message to people at different ages and stages.

love – showing compassion and concern for each other and for our wider community.

Let me share with you the questions that I asked at the end of the first Vision talk:

In your Christian journey - how have you grown in faith? What are we called to do to help each other develop the habits and practices of living faith. How do we gather, worship, discuss in ways that will encourage fruitful discipleship? Where do we need to change so that we see people of all ages developing their God given gifts, for his kingdom?

In your Christian journey - how have you grown in hope? How can our life together be a sign and an invitation to come to living faith? How can we learn to be 'good news' people in our homes, offices, schools and with our friends? How can we proclaim the call to follow Jesus in this generation?

In your Christian journey - how have you grown in love? What are the actions that make a difference in our world and in individuals' lives? Where are the needs in our community? Where do we need to repent of our selfishness and concern for our own needs?

Sisters and brothers in Christ – we are asking God to shape us, so that we would become a growing all-age community of faith, hope and love.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The family and friends of those who have recently died:

Hilda Coombs	95 years	28 th April
Evelyn Ramsbottom	98 years	13 th May
Doreen Brown	93 years	20 th May
Barbara White	80 years	24 th May
David Greenwood North	84 years	27 th May



Sadly we have recently marked the deaths of Evelyn Ramsbottom, aged 98, who was the longest serving member of St Martin's, Doreen Brown, also in her 90s, whose family brought her back to St George's for her funeral and of David North, well-known to our older members, whose funeral is at the end of this month.



Friends of St George's

After months of not being able to meet and enjoy our planned activities, there seems to be a 'light at the end of the tunnel, rather than an express train' and so our delayed outing to Trentham Gardens has been re-booked with McCarthy Coaches for Tuesday, 14th September, and the possibility of an Antiques Evening before Christmas is being considered.



Trentham Gardens



The Annual General Meeting, which is usually at the beginning of June, may be held in July, but arrangements and any restrictions for the use of the Hall are yet to be confirmed.

The Committee is still actively (via Zoom) moving forward with plans to commemorate St George in the Church building, and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our independence from Prestbury Parish Church. In 1971 the Centenary celebration was marked by a week-long festival involving many local groups, including music, drama, sport and, of course, the Church itself. More about that in the next edition of 'Offshoot'.

Susan Warrington



Meet our new Churchwarden

Hi Everyone! Please let me introduce myself. My name is Helen Kershaw and I am the new Churchwarden for the parish of St George's with St Martin. I am so excited to be able to serve the Lord, our church family and the wider community in this way and look forward to chatting with you over the next few months (hopefully in person).

Susan has asked me to write a little bit about myself – and a picture – which was particularly difficult as I'm not often at the front of a camera! Many of you will know me from the 11 o'clock service, others will know me as Tony and Madeleine White's youngest daughter, and some will know me for the cakes I bake for bonfire night.

I moved to Poynton with my parents when I was 11, left when I was 19 to do my nurse training and then moved back with my husband Andy (he's the one who plays the double bass) and our 3 boys, Joe, Charlie and Dan in 2007. We had started coming regularly to St George's in 2003 and Andy and I were privileged to be married at our lovely church by John Thompstone.

I became a Christian in my early teens whilst worshipping at St George's in Stockport. As an older teenager I frequented Poynton Baptist church, but returned to my Anglican roots at Holy Trinity Platt, when I started my nurse training in Manchester. Andy and I have loved being back in Poynton. We host a house group, read and play music in church services and I have also been a sides person for a number of years.

At the moment I work full time at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust as the Deputy Director for Quality Governance. It sounds a grand title, and I look after the medico legal teams, health and safety, inquests and litigation. After nursing for 35 years, I am retiring in November; however my initial plans for taking it easy and having no responsibility have clearly changed! The last 15 months have been particularly challenging for many of us. Working in the NHS has been tough, as has the isolation from friends and family. Most of all, I have missed the collective worship with my Christian brothers and sisters. I long for the day that I will be able to sing and praise the Lord alongside you. I pray that it is soon.

I haven't been a churchwarden before, and I know I follow in the footsteps of some amazing people, so please be patient with me as I learn the ropes from Matthew, Christine and Dave. If I may, I would also like to ask you to pray for me. Please pray for wisdom and discernment and a humble and serving heart.

With faith, hope and love in Christ

Helen



Annual General Meeting Report

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Monday 17th May in St. George's Church and via Zoom. There were 22 people attending in person, and around 49 on Zoom. The first part of the meeting is the 'Meeting of the Parishioners' held to elect our churchwardens for the coming year. Helen Kershaw and Dave McClelland were elected as Churchwardens, and Matthew thanked Helen Bradley who stood down as Churchwarden, presenting her with some tokens of our appreciation and also prayed for her.

The APCM followed the Meeting of Parishioners and included reports on review of the year booklet (Annual Report), finance (Trustees Report), safeguarding, the electoral roll and property. The Annual Report and the Trustees Report can be read in full on the church website or in print at the church office. There were also six places available on the PCC and the following were elected; Brian Clarke, David Myers, Eileen Shore, Vicky Timothy, and Peter Walker.

Matthew then made a short presentation on "Vision", reminding us that we have been thinking about the future and vision for our church beyond the lifting of Covid restrictions, including the preaching on the last 2 Sundays as we consider our call to focus and our motivation. He reiterated the three words given to him; faith, hope and love.

- Faith - Growing in the knowledge and love of God, through Bible study, worship and prayer
- Hope - knowing that we have hope and good news for the world, and offering ways for all to discover this for themselves.
- Love - showing compassion for our community and caring for one another. We are called to be a growing all-age church.



He stated that both traditional and contemporary style services would continue throughout August, whilst reconsidering the pattern of our worship as we start the September term. As Matthew closed in prayer, he urged us to pray for those elected and for the whole PCC, and to continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance for the future.

It was also announced that the Diocese have submitted planning permission for the Vicarage and the garden to include a new Vicarage with hopefully enough garden left to allow church 'dos'.

Garden Get Togethers

The date, Saturday 15th May, was agreed, but as the day approached I was undecided as what to do. The weather forecast was not good, neither was the longer term forecast, with heavy and intermittent showers.

Steve came up with the idea of borrowing our daughter's gazebo. We put it up in the garden with two sides on to protect us against the worst of the weather. Luckily six chairs fitted comfortably within; all socially distanced and out of the rain. We offered blankets for extra warmth and comfort.

Janet Lee, Catherine Owen, Elaine Sanderson, Jo Sewart, Val Vibrans and I had a really enjoyable afternoon. Good conversation, yummy cakes and pastries, teas and coffees plus the delight of talking to and seeing actual people rather than looking at others via a screen.

We didn't all know each other but that didn't matter as it was good to meet and get to know others from church. There was no shortage of conversation and three hours flew by very quickly.

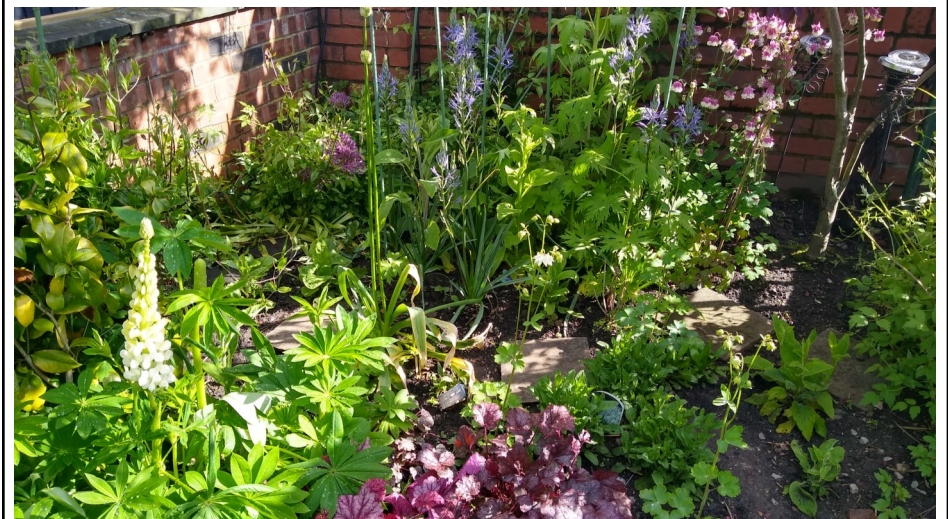


Thanks to the Women's Events team for organising the event.

Gill Golding

Six of us (Margaret Goode, Maureen Ashton, Susan Dodd, Sue Allcock, Vi Evans and me) gathered to chat, catch up and enjoy food and drink together. Sadly, the weather did not permit us to sit in the garden (pictured) as it was both windy and wet. This did not dampen our spirits! We had an afternoon tea of finger sandwiches, scones, flapjack, little cakes, a loaf cake and fruit salad. We were all a bit naughty, and the fruit salad remained untouched 😊. Thanks to all who either contributed food, drink or pretty flowers. We had a wonderful afternoon discussing families, friends, our services in church, our excitement at lockdown ending, our frustration at not being free to holiday and so much more. I hope others have the opportunity to meet outside in the coming weeks and thank the team who organise the women's events for their ideas and organisation.

Ann McClelland



The first lupin spike of the season with camassias

The Love of Gardening and Pots

The national passion for gardening has been heightened and strengthened since the start of the pandemic and we have all been grateful for either owning a garden or being lucky enough to share those of friends and family.

Often love of gardening and the enthusiasm for the restorative nature of it runs in families. My own parents used to talk about having greenhouses full of flowers at their nursery in Lincolnshire at the start of the war and how suddenly nobody wanted them, but they maintained their love of all things horticultural until into their late eighties and early nineties. My father took up gardening for a living after he retired and for twenty years he tackled some massive plots in Adlington, Wilmslow and Prestbury; some of his business resulted from people seeing his beautiful front garden on London Road South and calling to ask for his help and the rest from my placing an advert in the post office, with his permission, to cure his boredom when he retired.

My 103 year old aunt, who lived in Lincolnshire until her death last November, was a geranium aficionado and she was showing an interest in her pots right up until she died, having been lucky enough to stay in her own home.

I have inherited their love of pots as anyone who has been to the Garden Safaris in



Poynton over the years will know. It is an easy way to grow anything including acers, hydrangeas, roses, bedding plants, bulbs, hostas and box because as you know, you can control and refresh the soil and feed and water the plants easily. It also means you can ring the changes each season. The deadheading is very therapeutic too! I sometimes pulled out a handful of deadheading from my pocket instead of a



handkerchief when I was working because I couldn't resist doing it on my way out each morning!

Poynton in Bloomers including Sylvia Walker, and myself together with Susan Warrington extended this passion beyond our own gardens into the public realm, planting the fountain and pots around the village each season. Do contact us if you would like to be involved! They really do brighten up the village and make it look cared for and attractive to residents and visitors alike, which has to be good for business and the prosperity of Poynton.

In more recent times, I have begun to grow roses - there is nothing to beat their perfume and beauty and they enhance any room in your home! Tending them is a retirement cliché, but enjoyable nonetheless, as they reward us with such beautiful blooms. There are some magnificent ones around the village.

Here's to a lovely summer so we can enjoy the fruits of our labours in our gardens and share them with our friends and family, enhancing everyone's lives as a result. I often think of the poem, written in 1913, 'one is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth'. Somehow, after the past eighteen months, it has never seemed truer.



Sandra Sharpe

Harriet is on the move!

It's been a busy couple of months at Just-Ice Poynton as we've prepared to launch our mobile ice cream service to coincide with lockdown restrictions easing. Now Harriet, our ice cream trike named after escaped slave and activist Harriet Tubman, is ready to go out and about!

We've stocked our giant freezer...with our first delivery of delicious artisan ice cream made in person by Just-Ice founder and ice cream maker extraordinaire, Gavin Murray himself! We've kitted out our stylish horse box - otherwise known as 'Harriet's chariot' - to transport our ice cream trike and all the kit to our events.

We've trained our willing and talented band of volunteers who are raring to go! Around twenty of us for scooping and serving plus a small team of 'roadies' who have kindly offered their time and are being trained to tow the horsebox to events and help set up. We are grateful to each and every one of them! We now know all about sanitising, temperature checking, scooping the perfect scoop and many more things. Who would have thought there was so much to serving ice cream!?



In mid-May we thanked our supporters with an ice cream tasting event in the garden – and were blessed with the only sunny afternoon in a week of heavy rain! It was only right following their tremendous encouragement and provision for our project that they should be the first to taste our ice cream!

The very next day we had our first food hygiene inspection which resulted in a five star rating – the highest award possible. We were thrilled and so grateful to Karen Martin who trained us and guided us through this process with skill and gentle encouragement, generously giving her time and expertise at no cost.

The day after that we went out to our first event where we served 120 Sixth Form leavers at Stockport Grammar School with our handmade, artisan ice cream. It went down a storm, raised valuable funds and brought opportunities to raise the profile both of the problem of modern slavery and of us being Christians from St George's who are taking a stand in support of social justice.

So now we're ready! Please do let us know of any community or private events where our ice cream may be appreciated. It does take a little while to set up and clear away all the equipment so we're ideally looking for opportunities where a good number of people will be present or passing through, to make the day worthwhile.

All proceeds of our ice cream sales go directly into our charity bank account and will ultimately support survivors of modern slavery. None of us are paid for our work. We have been overwhelmed by the level of support from our church family – financial, practical and prayerful. Thankyou so much.

The joy of ice cream for the joy of freedom!

With love from Jo, Deborah, Christine, Alison & Paul.

St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Alban
martyr
persecution
Roman
emperor
Diocletian
priest
converted
soldiers
sacrifice
gods
condemned
death
execution
serenity
died
site
town
name
doorstep



Parish Pump

Paul's first missionary companion

Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

Parish Pump

Revelations

Reveal in us your glory

Stir in us your power

Renew in us your kingdom

Develop in us your faith

Show in us your way

Open in us your love

Strengthen in us your hope

Work in us your miracles

Revive in us your resurrection

Abide in us yourself.



David Adam "Tides and Seasons"