



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

Welcome

Autumn 2022




St Martin's
Higher Poynton


St George's
Poynton

Poynton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Autumn edition of Offshoot – an opportunity to reflect on past activities and be reminded of God’s faithfulness through the changing seasons of life.

Following the sad news of the death of our late Queen, it was our privilege as a church to open the doors of St George’s to the whole community. We held a reflective service the day after the Queen’s death, a Civic Service of Thanksgiving the day before the state funeral, and a short Vigil service outside to coincide with the national silence. There was also opportunity for quiet reflection, to sign a Book of Condolence, and to light a candle.

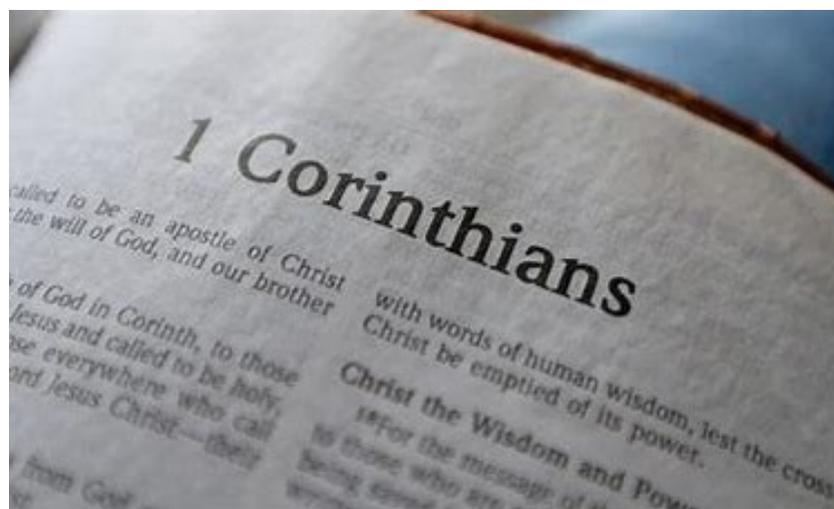
I know for some the Queen’s passing has brought up feelings of grief and sadness related to loss in their own lives – particularly the loss of parents. If this has touched you, then I encourage you to look out for the ‘Quiet Carols’ service that we’ll hold just before Christmas.

In church services, at St George’s and St Martin’s, we are looking at the letter of 1 Corinthians – and it was great to welcome Bishop Sam Corley (Bishop of Stockport) to St George’s for his first Sunday visit to Poynton at the beginning of September. We’ll be staying in the letter from now until Advent and picking it up again in 2023. The church in Corinth has problems and disputes, and was surrounded by a world that worshipped other things – including success and power. As we study together, we are seeing that God wants us to follow his ways in every area of our lives – it doesn’t mean that life will always be easy on that path, but it is the journey we are called to if we own the name Christian.

I pray that you have an enjoyable Autumn, and you are able to join us as we mark Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

These who have recently been married

16th September James Williams & Laura Hallam
8th October Andrew James & Hannah Pilkington



The family and friends of those who have recently died:

25th August Ivan Booth aged 78
5th September Kenneth Graham Weaver aged 86
7th September Brian Dickenson aged 78
12th September Roy Madeley aged 86
15th September Doreen McFadden aged 92
10th October Christine Ann Bird aged 89



**Marie Curie Coffee Morning
Friday 7th October**

Thank you to all of the volunteers, Marjorie, Ann, Sarka, Chris, Diane and Pauline, especially Brian for setting up the tables. Thank you also to Matthew for letting me use the church hall, to the people who baked cakes, donated and attended the event.

The morning was well attended and the sum of £731.88 was raised.

Save the date for next year – Friday 6th October 2023

Thank you once again

Carol Armitage



The Church of England official picture of Her Majesty the Queen coincidentally matches the new altar at Chester cathedral.

Tributes to Queen Elizabeth

There was no lack of response in the country to the Queen's death. Flags were immediately lowered and bells tolled at St Martin's and St George's and it was decided at St. George's that the church would be open all day, every day, and fifty one volunteers made sure that this was possible.

A Book of Remembrance was signed by seven hundred and seventy people. One of them said "Thank you for working so hard to have the Church open at this time. It meant so much to be able to sit quietly and sign the book".

Another visitor (one of 850+) appreciated "such a lovely peaceful church with beautiful music, and candles to light, made very special by a warm and supportive welcome."

Special services included a Thanksgiving Service, a Civic Service and a Vigil on Sunday evening with candles on the walls around the church which was, in the words of one person present, "a lovely little service which I will always remember." On the day of the funeral thirty two people accepted our invitation to share the ceremony with others, perhaps rather than being alone.

Many people were thankful that the Church had provided such opportunities. Some visitors had lived all their lives here in Poynton and were visiting the Church for the first time. Sometimes there are very special opportunities to connect with others and we pray that the doors may always be open, in many ways and on other occasions.

Helen Kershaw & Susan Warrington

Back to Church Sunday

A visit we've looked forward to for some time finally came on Sunday 4th September.

The 'new' bishop of Stockport Sam Corley came to speak to us at St George's church for our Back to Church Sunday. We were continuing in our series in Corinthians. A New Way of Living – Know your calling, called to be a Holy people. At the 9:15 service Bishop Sam explained how Paul's letter made it clear to those believers in Corinth that they were equipped by God's Holy Spirit to live the life of Christ in the places we have been sent. This is through the breathing out of God's spirit, being given gifts to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, to serve one another and bless the world. Paul telling the Corinthians (and us) we have been given everything we need.

At the 11am service Bishop Sam was I believe to be found on the floor as part of his demonstration about Jesus rising from the dead! Sorry I missed that! The service was the one that follows the Holiday Club for young people and there was still some evidence of the "Royals" who had been in Church all week entertaining and teaching a group of young people, some from the church families and some from other families in Poynton. All this was followed by a BBQ on St Martin's field. We were blessed by the weather, Bishop Sam making a request during the grace before our food for dry weather.

Harriet the Ice Cream Trike was also in attendance and a great afternoon was enjoyed by many from the church.



Ann McClelland



Who Does What?

Have you ever considered how many people and groups are involved in the work and witness of the Church and our Hall?

The idea of publishing a series of articles in Offshoot produced such a long list of possibilities that we were astonished!

However, we did ask Jenny Cooke, who is a member of the congregation and contributes regularly to Inside Poynton as well as to Offshoot, if she would consider taking on the task of profiling groups and sometimes specific people. Undeterred by the number of possible articles, she agreed.

Of course such a project always carries the danger of leaving out someone or some group, but we will try to avoid that problem! So please be patient; it could be some time before everyone who should be mentioned is mentioned, but we have “a little list and no-one will be missed”!

Susan Warrington

PS Many of the areas mentioned would really appreciate more helpers, so perhaps you might find a group you would enjoy working with?

Women's breakfast- Saturday 17th September

What a lovely social gathering of approximately 60 ladies, starting their early Saturday morning with the delights of fresh bread, fruits and pastries.

Many thanks for all involved in the preparation especially the organisers Val, Kate and Alison.

The guest speaker was our very own Jennie Prince, curate of St. George's.



She gave us an interesting insight about her life and Christian journey. As a young girl brought up in a Christian home in Burnage, Manchester, to meeting and marrying Jim who she met at church and then becoming mother to two girls, throughout all these events God has always been a part of her life. Jennie talked fondly of her childhood with her brothers and attending Brunswick church, a lively place which tried to encourage everyone to get involved and use their skills. Jennie later went to University to study physics. She always felt a sense of two callings one involving medical physics and also that of becoming a vicar. She first worked at Manchester Royal in nuclear medicine and then moved to Christies to work there and spent eighteen happy years. Jennie did however, feel the pull to pursue her Christian Calling and initially trained as a reader and was licensed in 2008. At one point Jennie was working and training at the same time for a life in ministry, and was ordained whilst COVID and lockdown happened. She started as a curate at All Saints church and moved to Wilmslow, but has now transferred to St. George's to complete her training.

Jennie and Jim are delighted to be here in Poynton, enjoying all aspects of church and village life.

She wanted to leave us with a verse she likes to refer to in Isaiah 43 - “God knows, don't be afraid”. Jennie is unsure of God's future plans for her and Jim but through prayer God will provide.

Jayne Boden

Notice in a Charity Shop Window

The death of her Majesty the Queen has left a void in all our lives but we can fill it with kindness.

Choir Outing to Mellor St. Thomas 25th August 2022

During the month of August each year, our choir is excused the usual Thursday rehearsals and, being a sociable lot, engage in other social events.

One of these events usually involves a visit to another local church of historical or other interest.

This year it was decided that a visit to Mellor St. Thomas might be of interest. .

The Church, dedicated to St. Thomas, sits high on a hill above the village. It must be a trial to reach in winter, but the views from just outside the building are spectacular. From that vantage it was possible on that clear, sunny evening to see aircraft landing and taking off from runway(s) at Manchester International Airport and other things further away to the Northwest.



There is evidence that the Church was established on its present site as early as the 12th Century, parts of the tower being dated to that period, although it has been modified and rebuilt since that time. In 1783 the walls were partly rebuilt, and galleries were constructed on the South and East walls. It is said that the “new” church could accommodate 700 seated. Further modifications were made in 1815 and again in 1827-29, including some reconstruction. The galleries from 1783 were removed in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The discovery of death watch beetle in 1960 caused the replacement of the roof. The former rood screen has been moved to the rear of the church to form a separate chapel, which contains a prie-dieu reputed to have been used by John Wesley as a speaking platform. The pulpit in the church dates from the 14th Century and is interestingly carved from a single block of wood and the font is Norman.

In 1977 a new Manser organ was installed and this now leads the choir and congregation at services.

The choir is of a standard to deputise for Cathedral choirs during the Summer months and, perhaps unusually in modern times, is seated to the rear of the Church rather than the front: thus perpetuating the late 18th/early 19th traditions of the West Gallery Choirs, which were many in this locality at that time (there remain a few, albeit not as church choirs any longer).

Having completed exploration of the Church and its environs, photos were taken outside.

Within the grounds of the old Vicarage is an archaeological site, which although now closed, still has information available and evidence of some interesting discoveries from the Bronze Age.

Finally the group then adjourned to the local hostelry, The Devonshire Arms, for refreshment before RTB (return to base) and home.

Peter Allcock

St George's Wine Society – Visit to Halfpenny Green Winery

A vineyard near Wolverhampton? It sounds unlikely but there is one and we visited it on September 15th this year.

We arrived at the Winery in good time to get a bite to eat and explore the site. There are over 30 acres of vines with the winery buildings in the centre of them. As well as the winery itself, there is a restaurant and a well-stocked shop and deli. There is also a craft village with a number of independent businesses selling all sorts of crafts and equipment. There is even a small zoo (I don't think that any of us ventured into it).

After lunch, we assembled in the Wine Tasting room and our guide introduced us to the winery. With a combination of a walk round the site and some short videos, we learnt about the winery and the processes that they use.

In 1983, Martin Vickers decided to try planting half an acre of his farm with vines to produce wines for his own consumption. The excellent quality of the wine that he produced, along with local interest in the project, encouraged him to turn his hobby into a business and, by 1991 a further 22 acres of vines had been added and today that has grown to 30 acres. The combination of the south facing slopes and sandy free-draining soil proved to be ideal conditions for the grapes. The roots of the vines, once mature, extend 12 feet below the surface and, due to the high water table, there is no need for artificial irrigation even in hot dry summers like 2022.

We were fortunate to visit just before the main harvest of the grapes; the Rondo vines were laden with fruit which we sampled. Wine grapes are much sweeter, more pulpy, and less juicy than the ones that we buy for the table. As well as classic varieties such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, Halfpenny Green also grows less well-known varieties (including Rondo) that provide better yield and higher quality in the British climate. The grapes are picked by hand rather than machine – an army of volunteers do the work and are paid for their efforts in wine!

Martin Vickers still manages the vineyard; his son Clive runs the winery and is the Head Wine Maker. Wine Production was in full flow when we visited which meant that we couldn't go round but we were able to see a lot of the machinery in action and the wine tasting room had windows overlooking the bottling plant. The machinery is mostly Italian – apparently, they make the best wine making equipment in the world. The range of wines produced includes several that are produced using the champagne method – we were fascinated by the riddling machine which turns the bottle very slowly over a number of days to loosen the sediment which is then removed from the bottles (disgorgement) before the final preparation and corking of the wine. The non-sparkling wines can be sealed with traditional corks, screw top or crown closures.



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QUEEN

A reign that lasted through our lives
Gone as the royal heart ceased to beat
And what was ours to take and to believe
Now it's her creator she must meet.



She shone a light for all to see
She spread the love for all to know
She gave herself so selflessly
As if she wasn't in a show.

Born into a Truman show
She found her way to shine that light
She touched our hearts across the globe;
We viewed her life within plain sight.

Ever there, and ever strong
She led us through the good and bad
Always real and always true
She gave us hope when we were sad.

And in the end, she was not a god;
A woman with a role to play.
But she learned to know the Holy Ghost
And trusted God from day to day.

Bob Smith

All Together



Andy and I returned to St George's for the first time in over two years and came to the joint service. It was great to see so many familiar faces all in one place! The service enabled us to meet people from all three congregations at once. It was good seeing everyone worship God together. I really enjoyed the various parts of the service and it was lovely seeing the children singing their song! From our point of view it was a great service to return for; singing was uplifting, Jennie's sermon was challenging.... What a brilliant way to spend a Sunday morning!

Helen Livingstone

What a blessing it is to be part of a family, the way God planned things to be. And it certainly felt that way at our Combined Service on 9th October. Forget Paul, Apollos, Sosthenes. Forget 9:15, 10:00, 11:00. Forget young, old, in-betweens. All one, in Christ Jesus, blessed with an inspirational service of praise and worship. Lovely hymns – old and new. Great fellowship – memory verses, Pastoral Team, and a birthday! And what about those priceless kids – 'and you and you, and you and you' – (how is it that kids always steal the show!). Jennie's message – straight from the heart. Then the whole service took off as we all seemed to be praising God with our whole hearts as we sang 'When I survey the wondrous cross'. There is no better place to be on a Sunday morning – whatever time - than together in the House of God. 'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord'. I can't wait to do it again!

Derek Jones

I really enjoyed seeing both churches together and it was lovely to see the church full. It was great to hear the band and the choir together as I don't usually get to hear the choir at the 11:00 service. I was out in my usual group for most of the service but I really enjoyed the beginning section. Next time, I would like the opportunity to turn round for a chat with somebody I don't know.

Archie Griffith

Continued from page 8

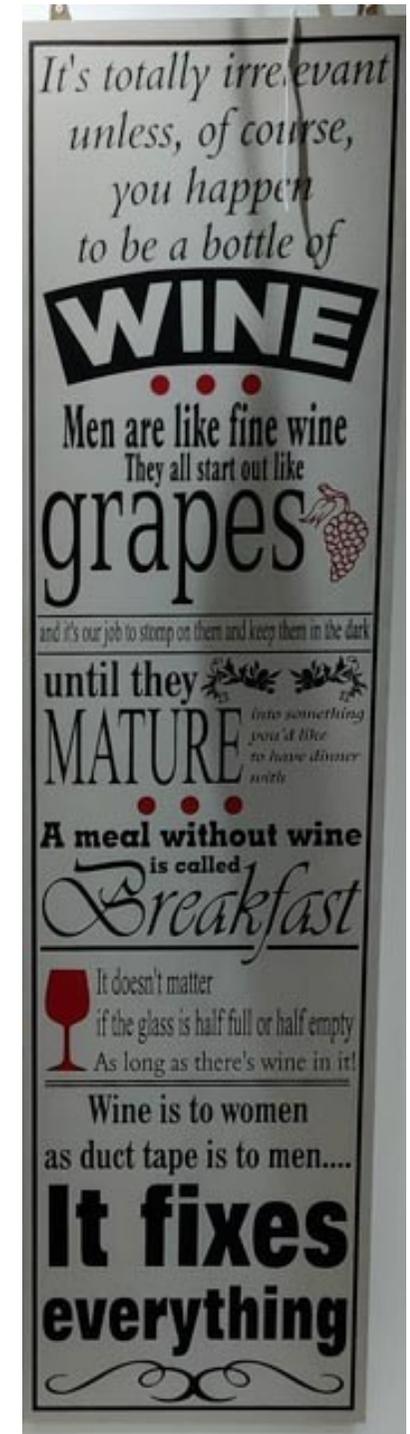
The winery produces around 50-60,000 bottles of its own-label wine every year. In addition, it also produces a similar amount of wine for around 50 smaller vineyards around England and Wales. We tasted four wines from the current Halfpenny Green range; Brut Sparkling (2021) which is made in the traditional (Champagne) method; Bacchus(2021), a dry white; English Rose (2021), a medium dry rosé, and Penny Red (2021) a medium bodied red. As usual, when we taste wine, there were a range of opinions and preferences, but most people found something to their taste amongst those we sampled.

Once we had finished the tasting, we left the room while it was prepared for the cream tea included with the tour. This gave those of us particularly taken with the wines a chance to visit the shop to purchase a bottle or two (or three...). After the cream tea we boarded the coach for our journey back to Poynton.



All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day.

Jonathan Ayres





Harvest Lunch

On 5th October a good number of retired people attended this special Harvest lunch in the Church Hall, watched over by a plump scarecrow. We all enjoyed a really good meal of chicken hot pot followed by blackberry and apple crumble and custard. Afterwards we had a good chat catching up with one another over a cup of tea or coffee- and a biscuit! We all thoroughly enjoyed it and say a big thank you to those who prepared and served our meal. It was all very much appreciated.

Anne Decker

PS The scarecrow was made by Brian Clarke using his own clothes and the photograph was also taken by him.

Autumn Sunshine

Tuesday 11th October brought an amazingly bright sky and although it was decidedly chilly initially, those gathering to embark on the Mary Sunley 2 were looking forward to a peaceful morning travelling the Macclesfield Canal to Marple. It proved to be warm on board and we all enjoyed the chance to sit and chat and wave to the dog walkers and hikers along the tow path.

Fishermen were competing with the heron though we didn't see either catch anything! Every time we go on the Mary Sunley we see a heron, each time in a different spot but never actually catching anything! We enjoyed our sandwiches and delicious cakes at lunchtime and tea and coffee were provided as required so thanks are due to those who organised the day and to the crew who were, as always, friendly and very helpful.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful facility and to live in an area where a day spent in such lovely countryside is such a blessing especially to those who find getting out and about increasingly difficult.

Susan Warrington



Friends of St. George's coach trip to Liverpool

Rain was forecast so as we gathered at the bus stop in Poynton umbrellas and raincoats were very much in evidence. Our driver got us to Liverpool in good time and we dispersed, some to explore the Albert Docks and museums and some the Anglican cathedral.

The museum of Liverpool was opened in 2011. It has 3 floors of amazing exhibits showing everything you can imagine about this vibrant city. We especially loved reliving our youth listening to the Beatles, Cilla Black and many others. I also was memorised by the stories told by locals on the many interactive screens.

Then on to the Anglican cathedral, a breathtaking building of huge dimensions but still maintaining many peaceful corners for private prayer. Many of our group were surprised at how young a building it is. Designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in 1903 when he was only 22 the foundation stone was laid in 1904. Two world wars had interrupted the building work amongst other things and it was not completed until 1978.

Some of us also visited the Catholic Cathedral of the Christ the King, a very different building. Modern in concept the worship space is circular giving a view of the altar wherever one sits, while the art works are amazing and the colours striking. A visit to the crypt provided a very clear history of the original desire to build the "biggest cathedral in the world". As with the Anglican, war put a stop to that and the post war version took a very different path. Both very well worth a visit even in the pouring rain!"

The promised rain had not dampened our spirits and as we all climbed back on our coach to head back to Poynton everyone agreed it had been an interesting and very enjoyable day out.

Thank you to "The Friends" for organising it and our very handy maps of Liverpool.

Elaine Sanderson

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL PRAYER

O God, who created me to be human,
bring my humanity to your divinity,
May I place my hands into yours,
trusting you for who I am now
and for whom you long for me to be.

In the name of Jesus who became
fully human allowing his hands to be
nailed to a cross

But is now alive and lives in and
among us by His Holy Spirit.



Jesus says:

"Be assured I am with you to the end of time"



**Liverpool Metropolitan
Cathedral**

Harvest Festival

Those of us of a certain age will remember that one of the most impressive contributions to the Harvest decoration was an out-size loaf of bread in the shape of a wheat sheaf. Always against the altar, and always the window sills overflowing with fruit, flowers and vegetables.



It is quite some time since there were people in Poynton "ploughing the fields and scattering the good seed" on such a scale in our neighbouring fields. Sometimes such amounts of fresh food became an overabundance and no doubt there was quite a lot of waste! Nevertheless, thanks to the flower team, we always still enjoy the beautiful decoration of the Church. However, nowadays we have become much more aware of the practical needs of organisations such as Wellspring, which serves those with all sorts of needs, so our Harvest gifts, including some from Lower Park School, and consisting of food and other necessities, were promptly delivered to Wellspring.



Our opening hymn on Harvest Sunday was "Come ye thankful people come" and we give thanks for our own blessings and pray for the needs of so many others less fortunate.

Susan Warrington

**For Her Gracious Majesty
Queen Elizabeth 11
with deep gratitude and respect for
a truly amazing Lady.**

Queen
greetS KING
of HEAVEN
most Gracious KING
A wise Queen of great discernment and grace.
Of deep-seated integrity and love.
Servant of God
loved, redeemed
now at PEACE.
God save our Gracious Queen.
Long reigned our Noble Queen.
God Bless our Queen.
Receive her with love and grace.
Redeemed in Heavenly Space.
Crowned with Heaven's majesty
God bless our Queen.

Rosanne Alcraft

