



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

**Welcome**

Christmas 2022-  
New Year 2023



*Chester Cathedral*

*Poynton Parish Church*



Dear Friends,

I wonder how you are doing with your preparations for Christmas? Is the tree up? Cards sent? Presents bought and wrapped? Food planned?

No matter if you are the most organised and advanced planner, or the most last minute Christmas Eve 'rush to the shops' kind of person, each Christmas gives us an opportunity to reflect and hear again the good news of the first Christmas.

We sometimes layer so many extras – things to do, presents, decorations, food and expectations – onto Christmas time, but at the heart is a simple story. A simple story which speaks of a profound, revolutionary, truth.

The poster outside the lychgate, the page in Inside Poynton and the flyers we've been giving out invite people to "Discover the real gift of Christmas..." Rather than looking under the tree, in the supermarket or butchers, or even within our own memories, the real gift is found in the person of Jesus.



In Luke's gospel the shepherds are told: "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

The important thing wasn't the journey, the manger, the stars, the song of the angels; the important thing, the gift, was the child, Born to be a Saviour, a rescuer.

God looked at the world, saw the mess, the confusion, the sadness, and sent his Son. Paul writes in the book of Titus:

"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." (Titus 3:3-5)

We'd love to see you at one of our Christmas services, there really is something for all ages. May you know the true gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,

*Matthew*

There are two special Christmas events

**at St Martin's Higher Poynton:**



4 .00 pm Christmas Eve  
10:30 am Christmas Day

Carols, Candles, and cake  
Holy Communion and Carols

See page 3 for services at St George's

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### *The family and friends of those who have recently died:*

17/10/2022	Arline Bennett	aged 92
3/11/2022	Elizabeth McCray Splaine	aged 97
17/11/2022	Frederic Harrison	aged 83
21/11/2022	Joan Dean	aged 95
06/12/2022	Yvonne Forresthill	aged 86



Quiet Carols – 6:30pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult or would simply enjoy a quieter space.

Family Carols – 2pm, 3pm and 4pm Christmas Eve  
A lively half hour service exploring the Christmas story.

Christmas Communion – 9pm Christmas Eve  
Celebrate the good news of Christmas with a service Holy Communion and carols.

Communion and Carols – 8:30am Christmas day  
Begin your Christmas Day with Communion and carols.

All-Age Christmas Communion – 10am Christmas Day  
A joyful celebration of the good news of Christmas!  
Why not bring along a present you've opened!

## Customs

The English gave us Yule logs,  
the high-hung mistletoe.

The Germans brought the Christmas tree  
in from the cold and snow.

The Swedish praise St Lucia  
and set a sheaf of wheat  
high on a pole above the snow  
so winter birds can eat.

The Dutch gave us St Nicholas,  
and Clement Clarke Moor  
added all the reindeer  
and the sleigh outside the door.

Norwegians have krummkakken  
and special Christmas treats,  
while Christmas songs from every land  
are carolled in our streets.

But so that we'd remember  
The God who came in flesh  
and worship him at Christmastime,  
St. Francis made the crèche.



Taken from 'Poems for Public Worship'

## Armistice Day 2022



The sun shone, and the people of Poynton came to remember. Armistice Day at the War Memorial proved 'A Must attend' event for so many of our residents, over The Remembrancetide weekend, this solemn occasion commemorating the end of the 1st World War. Attended by the Mayor, myself carrying the Union Standard, wearing a WW1 uniform, giving the event an added poignancy.

After the two minute silence I invited everyone to attend the laying of wreaths on the six war graves, located in the churchyard. As the names and ages of our fallen were spoken many a tear was shed. A further four of our sons were laid to rest in family graves and those too were to receive an emotional mention. The last being a friend of mine who met his end in the troubles in Northern Ireland. 'God Bless you 'Stitty Mate!'

For those not witnessing the Remembrance events on Sunday (and there can't have been many), the sun again shone down, and the crowds paid their respects in a very impressive show of solidarity. On a personal note having been absent from these events for two

years, due to Covid and health reasons, it was heartening to see the compassion of the men and women and children of our village united as one to remember!

A special moment which moved so many to tears was when Veteran Richard Welling, RAF Bomber aged 99, laid a wreath on behalf of his friends in 357 and 358 squadrons. Richard became Guest of Honour at the saluting dais and a great fuss was made of him at the British Legion afterwards. As he left he remarked "*I have had a wonderful day and I will be back next year!*" On behalf of the people of this parish we dearly hope he will.

Glyn Derbyshire - R.B.L. President



## 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?

### Jenny Cooke meets Jeannette Wood

On November 8<sup>th</sup> the flower team were hard at work decorating the church for Remembrance Sunday, while Jeannette was sitting at the front, directing operations from her pew. ‘I couldn’t do any of it without my brilliant, loyal team,’ she says. ‘They’re so good in every way.’

The team get together in St George’s to decorate for big services like Remembrance, Harvest and Christmas.

Otherwise there’s a rota for normal Sundays. Jeannette also does flowers for St Martin’s, although since Covid times she uses silk flowers from her store up there. ‘My husband, Malcolm, plus all the Clarkes are honorary members of the team,’ she says. ‘The men are always up and down ladders for me and Brian and Chris and family made the enormous poppies that are such a focal point above the altar.’ She explains that Men in Sheds created the silhouette of the Tommy on the right-hand side of the



altar. The Townswomen’s Guild decorated the lychgate, including purple poppies to commemorate the animals killed in war and white poppies to commemorate the Conscientious Objectors who were killed.

Jeannette has headed up the Flower team since Pat Bell left. ‘One day I saw a notice in the news sheet asking for help with the flowers,’ she says. ‘I love flower arranging so I emailed Rob and offered to do it.’ And she’s been involved ever since. ‘We’re always looking for new members to join us on the team,’ says Jeannette. ‘There are lots of other jobs as well as flower arranging, where we need help as well.’

Normally she buys flowers locally to keep costs down and the team bring foliage from their gardens. Sometimes people ask for an arrangement in remembrance of a loved one. ‘We’re always very grateful to receive donations to the flower fund,’ she says. During the pandemic she and Malcolm brought down a new arrangement every week and placed it in view of the cameras. This meant that people watching the service online could see fresh flowers. She and the rest of the team find they play a pastoral role in supporting each other as well, when life sends its inevitable hard times.

Flowers are always on Jeannette’s mind. On holiday in Cornwall recently they decided to charge the car at Ikea. This took an hour so she nipped into the store and had a look round. ‘Imagine how I felt when I found some beautiful silk poppies for sale,’ she says. ‘I bought them straightaway!’ Even as the team are finishing the Remembrance displays Jeannette is thinking about Christmas. ‘Brian,’ she asks, ‘can you put some holly with berries into the jugs of water while we’re away, so they’re ready.’

Thank you very much to all involved and especially to Jeannette, for making St George’s and St Martin’s so beautiful. It really does make a difference.

Contact Jeannette on 07837 118262 or 01625 873198, Who’s Who or Church Suite.

## Monopoly Anyone?

Starting in 1939, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape ...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks - they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI5 had the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licencee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE' packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

While they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass.
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together.
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the 'Free Parking' square.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were formally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free card.

*From David Cayton*

## Bonfire at St Martin's

It was a cold, dark Saturday night. Everyone stood and counted down for the bonfire to be lit. It took a while but then lots of flames burnt the dry wood. It soon warmed us up.



There was lots of food. I enjoyed a burger with onions and sauce. It was delicious. I was also treated to a cake and a fizzy drink! What a treat!

The fireworks were amazing. My favourite one went boom, boom, boom! There was lots of colours and they lit up the sky.

I had a lovely time with my family and church friends. Thank you to everyone for organising.

*Josh MacLennan*

## THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S - 1918 – THE YEARS BETWEEN – 1939

On the evening of Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, the Friends of St George's held a most enjoyable evening in the Church Hall on the theme of the end of the First World War and the peaceful years before the outbreak of the Second World War. It was the era of the flapper girl and the Charleston, the Jazz Age and the Golden Age of Hollywood musicals.

Live music was most ably provided by a quartet of musicians called Reflections with Adam on accordion, Alan on guitar, Cathy on keyboard and Sarah singing.

We were greeted at the door by a welcoming drink and then sat at two long tables, tastefully decorated, along the length of the church hall.

Susan Warrington introduced the evening and we began the proceedings with Sarah leading us as we all sang Pack up your troubles and It's a long way to Tipperary, at first separately and then simultaneously!

Then the sliding internal doors of the church hall opened and the lights were lowered to reveal Glynn, dressed as a First World War soldier. He very movingly declaimed a family poem inspired by his Great Uncle Frank who served in the 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the Manchester Regiment, and who was killed in his early 20s.

Then there was a change of mood and Sarah sang a selection of songs accompanied by Reflections. These included two Irving Berlin songs – Alexander's Ragtime Band, and What'll I do, and two film songs : Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man from Jerome Kern's Showboat and Tea for Two from No, No, Nanette and a jazz number, I can't give you anything but love, Baby.

We then had a delicious supper of finger sandwiches and other tasty savouries followed by French macarons.

Susan thanked Reflections for their playing and pointed out they were giving their services free apart from a collection in aid of Just Ice. She then introduced Alice who told us some of the work of the Friends of St George's in raising funds to buy items needed by the church. Past projects included work on the lychgate and restoration of an altar frontal. A current project is to have a stained-glass window in the church representing St George as there is no image of him there at the moment. Alice directed our attention to leaflets on the tables and said new committee members would be very welcome.



Reflections then resumed with some classic film songs such as Casablanca's As time goes by, and Let's call the whole thing off from Gershwin's Shall we Dance made famous by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. We also heard Fats Waller's Ain't Misbehaving and Glenn Miller's In the Mood and the musical part of the evening finished with Louis Armstrong's What a wonderful world.

We had had a wonderful evening and enjoyed socialising and chatting to friends.

Many thanks to Susan Warrington and her hard working committee for organizing the evening.



*Catherine Owen*

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: Retired Christmas Lunch

Not that the lunch was retired; just the attendees! Although the monthly lunch is always a very pleasant occasion, much appreciated by those who come, the December lunch was a Christmas one and the team had spared no effort in making it special. Not only were the tables beautifully arranged and decorated (as usual) but the menu began with tasty nibbles and went through to mince pies with everything in between and then a piece of Christmas cake and a mystery present to take home! All served to us by the team who were assisted by Jenny and Christine which was much appreciated. We were entertained by Matthew at the piano as we arrived and we sang some carols after lunch. With a very helpful and thought-provoking reminder from him that Christmas is so much more than presents and carol singing, the attendees went home, full of thought as well as food. Many thanks to Krys and her team. They excelled themselves and we are very grateful.

There is no Retired Lunch in January. First Wednesday in February will see us happily gathering!



*Susan Warrington*



**Women's Event** followed two days later and as one who attended both I can only say that we have so many talented people who spend time to give others a very enjoyable evening that we are very grateful to them all. I can only say too that our Quiz team did not shine in any of the categories, which were really hard!



However, we did much enjoy the company and the attention to detail of the team of organisers, not to mention the mulled wine, the little pressie bag and the company of people we don't see very often, so thanks to everyone who played a part in putting it all together.

A very happy Christmas and New Year to all and may we share our blessings with those who are so much less fortunate.

*Susan Warrington*

## Christmas Fest





## Christmas Quiz

Can you decipher the REAL titles of these exaggerated titles of very familiar Christmas tunes? Don't peek now—but if you need help, find the answers below.

1. From dark 'til dawn, soundless and sanctimonious.
2. Celestial messengers from splendid empires.
3. In a distant bovine diner.
4. Universal elation.
5. Ornament the enclosure with large sprigs of berry-bearing evergreen.
6. O miniature Nazarene village.
7. May Jehovah grant unto you hilarious males retirement.
8. Those of you who are true, come here!
9. Are you detecting the same aural sensations as I am?
10. The diminutive male of less than adult age who plays a percussion instrument.
11. Primary Yuletide.
12. Heavenly cherubs announcing in song— listen.



**Answers:** 1. Silent Night 2. Angels We Have Heard on High 3. Away in a Manger 4. Joy to the World 5. Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly 6. O Little Town of Bethlehem 7. God Rest Your Merry Gentlemen 8. O Come All Ye Faithful 9. Do You Hear What I Hear? 10. Little Drummer Boy 11. The First Nowell 12. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.

## The Adventure Begins

I stand on the threshold of another new year  
A blank canvas awaits my first timid stroke  
Planning, dreaming, hoping and praying  
Anticipation, excitement, what lies ahead?

How, when, where - which way do I go  
What plans shall I make or leave it to chance  
If I need to make changes, what shall I do  
No more resolutions I will never keep!

Three of my aims I long to achieve -  
A friendly smile and greeting for all  
Be willing to listen with a sympathetic ear  
And to learn when it's wise to stay silent!

A year has gone now with its many highs  
Maybe some lows but that's normal in life  
Love and laughter with family and friends  
Golden days, lovely memories to treasure.

I pray that again in twelve months time  
I can look back and reflect on happy times  
To have lived each day the best way I can  
Then thank God for the blessings He's given.

Although I don't know what the future holds  
What roads and pathways I still have to tread  
How far or how long my journey will be  
I know another adventure's beginning!



*Pam Timperley*

## Guide Us *in the Way of Peace*

Lord, we ask your help in our torn world.  
In your love and compassion  
guide us in the way of peace  
and away from the brink of disaster,  
So many conflicts cast dark shadows  
over the future of our world today.  
So many suffer untold violence in wars, so  
many millions of refugees  
flee for their lives.

May leaders everywhere be inspired to  
understand and take to heart  
the fundamental truth  
that we all belong to the one human  
family.

## A Peace Rose



“The hinge of history is to be  
found on the door  
of a Bethlehem stable.”

“Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down?  
Who holds the wind in his fists? Who wraps up the oceans  
in his cloak? Who has created the whole wide world?  
What is his name and his son’s name? Tell me if you can.”

**The Bible, Proverbs 30:4**

## Wassail Toasts

In parts of the country it was customary to toast the animals (and by association the farm has a whole) on Twelfth Night. Custom dictated that the farmer and his farm servants would visit the oxen in their stalls, raising a toast to each one, calling each by name while reciting:

*Here’s to thee benbow, and to thy white horn,  
God send thy master a good crop of corn;  
Oh wheat, rye and barley, and all sorts of grain;  
You eat your oats, I’ll drink my beer,  
May the Lord send us a happy new year.*



When each ox had been toasted, a specially baked plum cake with a hole in the centre was placed over a horn of the first ox, which was then encouraged to shake his head and send the cake flying one way or the other; if it fell in one direction, the farmer had the cake, in the other and it went to the farm servants.

Sometimes the toast was offered by the farmer’s wife, who might say:

*Fill your cups my merry men all,  
For here’s the best ox in the stall,  
Oh, he is the best ox, of that there’s no mistake,  
And so let us crown him with the Twelfth  
cake.*

If the plum cake was placed on the horn of a heifer, this form of toast was used:

*Here’s health to the heifer,  
And to the white teat,  
Wishing the Mistress a house full of meat.  
With cruds (curds), milk and butter, fresh every day,  
And God grant the young men out’n her way.*



*Taken from ‘Salt of the Earth’ from The National Trust*