



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

**Welcome**

May/June 2022



*St Martin's*  
Higher Poynton



*St George's*  
Poynton

*Poynton Parish Church*

Dear Friends,

At our Vision Sunday and Annual Meeting we thought about what it means for us to be “Becoming a growing, all-age community of faith, hope and love.”

**Becoming** – that means there will be change; the situation we find ourselves in post-Covid is different to pre-Covid.

**Growing** – we expect to see new people join our church community, which we have seen in the last year... and expect people to come to faith and grow in faith.

**All-age** – we are not to be a church for old people, or a church for children... we are to be a family of all ages. There will be things that we do together, things that we do in more age appropriate ways, but our call is to people of all ages.

**Community** – Whilst it is important for each one of us to come to a saving knowledge of God, to have a prayerful, dynamic relationship with Jesus, being inspired by the Spirit... we are called together. We are part of the worldwide church – and we are members of a local church. St George’s and St Martin’s is not about the Vicar, or about the wardens or PCC, or those on a rota – it is about “us”.

**Faith** – deepening in discipleship, discovering new things about God, experiencing more of the Spirit’s power in our lives day-by-day, confidence in what we believe.

**Hope** – offering spaces and places for others to discover the good news of Jesus. There are thousands of people in Poynton who don’t know Jesus! According to last month’s Talking Jesus report - across the UK 48% describe themselves as Christian (6% being ‘Practising Christian’), 26% state no religion.

**Love** – the call to follow God and the love that flows from him to us should overflow into love for each other, love for our community, love for the wider world and for the planet. We demonstrate our priorities are not just on keeping ourselves happy – but making a difference where God has called us, and supporting those he has called to particular areas of need.

The beginning of June also marks the celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. In honour of Her Majesty’s Christian faith, I leave the last words of this letter to her words, which encourage and challenge us to live lives as followers of Jesus in the world today:

‘For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.’

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

***These who have recently received Baptism or Thanksgiving***

24th April Charlie John Clifton Williams

***These who have recently been married***

2nd April Sam Alvey and Lauri Jackson

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

20<sup>th</sup> January Donald Leonard Cook aged 86

16th February Joyce Cooke aged 91

3rd March Pamela June Searle aged 99

8th April Carole O'Donnell aged 79

22nd April David Wrigley aged 75

25th April Geraldine Clare Belcher aged 68

27th April Lily Josephine Howels aged 94

4th May Elizabeth Ann Waterhouse aged 82



**A STORY TRAIL ACROSTIC**

Easter  
Ascension  
Sorrow  
Tribulation  
Everlasting  
Resurrection

Suffering  
Trial  
Ordeal  
Risen  
YAHWEH

Trust  
recalled  
Almighty  
Immanuel  
LORD



*Rosanne Alcraft*

Dear Friends,

Marjorie and I write to thank you all for your prayers, good wishes and kind offers of help following my recent accident. Belonging to the church family of St. George's and St Martin's is a great blessing and we give thanks for this also.

As ever,

*Chris Trueman*

**Poynton Parish Church**

***Giving to our Church***

Gift Aid adds a significant bonus to any money you give to this church.

If you are a UK taxpayer and put your gift in a special envelope provided we may claim an extra £2.50 for each £10 you give. (28p for each £1). You will need to fill in your name and address on the envelope and sign it but that is all.

Gift Aid is a scheme that allows any charity to claim a refund of tax the donor has paid on the money donated. You need to have paid sufficient tax to cover your donation and that tax can be on income, investments, or on Savings and Building Society accounts, or on Capital gains. The completed information on the donation envelope is required by the Inland Revenue as your declaration that you wish the Church to recover the tax. The Church will regard your donation and declaration as confidential.

Thank you.

## New Curate - Licensing Service



On Thursday morning, 12th May, Sam, the Bishop of Stockport came to St. George's to license Revd. Jenny Prince as Assistant Curate to the parish of Poynton. It was a small, but warm and welcoming service. After singing "I will sing the wondrous story" with enthusiasm (ably assisted by the Vicar on keyboards!), the Bishop

gave a short address based on the two readings from Joel and Matthew. Whilst he affirmed Jenny's calling to full time ministry, and her role as curate to St. George's and St. Martin's, he encouraged us all to consider our own personal calling and how we can all serve God in some way. Refreshments, including some delicious cakes, were served in the hall afterwards, giving Jenny an opportunity to meet people, and make a start on trying to remember everyone's names - good luck with that Jenny! We give thanks to God for sending Jenny to us, and look forward to her ministry with us and getting to know her better.

*Val Parry*



## Song of Solomon Chapter 2

For now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
They give forth fragrance.



## Easter Story Trail at St George's, Poynton

Once again, Bible Encounter Trust has had the privilege of working alongside the good folk of St George's, supporting them in their outreach to the primary schools of Poynton through the presentation of the Easter Story Trail.

It was an extraordinary fortnight. On our first day, due to a steep increase in the covid infection rate, some sessions, understandably, were cancelled and in the first week, slots went unfilled. After reassessment it was decided that the school groups could come, and we made up for lost time by slightly shortening sessions and running them back-to-back. Our 'speedometer' was fluctuating wildly, but by the end of the last day all groups originally booked had been able to come - and 32 classes - almost 900 children - plus their accompanying staff, heard the gospel story.

Memorable moments from the week? Working together with the church family at St George's, in building a set that was much enjoyed and appreciated, and played its part in creating the setting for the telling of the Easter story. The wonders of the unpredictable British climate - the wonderful, summery weather of week one, the icy winds and snow flurries of week two! Above all of course, experiencing the silent focus of children and adults listening intently to the story being told.

We are thankful for the opportunity of serving together, to share the story of Easter with Poynton's next generation.

*Steve Whitaker*



**Garry Ion**

Link Letter no. 54 | April 2022

[churchmissionsociety.org/ion](http://churchmissionsociety.org/ion)

CHURCH  
MISSION  
SOCIETY



*The call in action*

Dear Friends,

With pandemic restrictions hopefully behind us, it has been good to start visiting link churches in person, something I have been waiting to do since returning from Uganda two years ago. I have especially missed worshipping together the very purpose For which we were created! I remain very thankful and encouraged by the support I receive despite my change in focus and location. If a visit hasn't yet been arranged, and you would like one, please do be in touch. I'm trying to organise visits around my work in Carlisle and caring for my parents in Penrith, my mum is currently having radio therapy.

At the Community Shed, formerly Men's Shed, in Carlisle, the ministry continues to grow and develop. Despite the name change, we remain focussed primarily on supporting men. With restricted space and a number of men wanting to join, we have split daily meetings into two, so we can offer separate morning and afternoon sessions, tailoring activities according to the needs and ability of the participants. We find productivity varies according to whether the men feel up to doing some practical work or just need a chat, cuppa and a prayer. We now also offer lunchtime fellowship between sessions which includes a bite to eat. So we take it in turns to down tools in the workshop and pick up kitchen utensils and a tea towel!

Writing to the Philippians, Paul says in chapter four to put aside anxiety and struggles, to lay them before God in prayer with thanksgiving. Peace will come when hearts and minds are focussed on what is good, the knowledge of God's presence in this troubled world. My hope and prayer is that members of the shed will come to know this peace which passes all understanding.

We rightly focus on and pray for world peace in these uncertain times, for the many thousands of people being made homeless across the world, with refugees and migrants finding safe haven in our communities. Please remember all the vulnerable people in our own communities who fail to make ends meet, who feel alone, at risk or have found themselves homeless. As the cost of living spikes, its impact is being felt most by those already struggling on the poverty line. Please pray for these increased needs – for physical and mental support. At the shed we are very aware we do not have the space or capacity to help everyone who enquires about joining. Please pray for sensitivity and wisdom as we network with like-minded organisations and as we form groups who can support each other. Pray for conversations as we sensitively share the gospel message through actions and words. May God's love be at the centre of all we do and say so that the vicious circles and black holes referred to above can be permanently broken and left behind.

Thank you, again, for journeying with me,

God bless,

*Garry*

## Here we go gathering nuts in May

Since no nuts have formed by the time May arrives, none can be gathered, which appears to render as nonsense this old country rhyme, made popular by children. However, if a couple of minor changes are made, the rhyme does indeed make sense.



Here we go gathering nuts in May is an example of how words in traditional rhymes have sometimes become confused with other words with similar sounds. In this case, the original rhyme ran 'Here we go gathering knots of May', which referred to the long-held practice of gathering knots of flowers on May Day.

## What does church mean to you?

" Church is a way of life, a people rather than a place, a coming together, a gathering, a shared understanding, a family, a focus, Jesus at the centre, a home from home."

*Jonathan Brook, Director, Manna House, Kendal*

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting . Sunday 15th May 2022

At our APCM Dave McClelland and Helen Kershaw were elected as our churchwardens and Ruth Arthur, Linda Bell, Joyce Corlett, Gill Goulding, Val Vibrans and Steve Brain were elected as PCC members. Please do pray for them and the other members of the PCC.

Helen particularly extended thanks to all the staff and many willing volunteers who give so much time and care, in so many ways, to the life of our busy parish.



## Parish Weekend at Thornleigh Christian Hotel, Grange-over-Sands - 8th - 10th April 2022



This weekend should have taken place in April 2020 and we weren't due to go. Following the various lockdowns it was able to go ahead this year and we were asked if we would like to go as there were some available places. We agreed, even though we realised we wouldn't know too many people, but thought it was a good opportunity to get to know others in our congregation and have fellowship with members of our church family. It didn't disappoint.

The theme was "What on Earth is Heaven?" led by Reverend John Briggs. John led five sessions throughout the weekend:

Echoes of Eden. When it was heaven on earth,  
Learning to live on earth in a heavenly way,  
Future perfect: when Jesus comes again and  
Do this....until He comes. This session included communion,  
Conclusions.

Each session was very informative, biblically based and easy to follow and listen to, with useful handouts for us to annotate as we listened. In fact we have since ordered two of the books John mentioned in his talks.

The morning and evening prayers were all well attended, not only led by Christine, but also by John Buckley and Colin Rockwood.

We were certainly blessed with lovely weather throughout the weekend, which meant we could all make the most of the lovely views and get out for a walk during Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening we had an interesting and fun mix of different types of entertainment brought by a variety of us.

We were very well looked after by the staff at Thornleigh, the food was excellent and certainly plentiful.

We will definitely go again.

*Gill and Steve Golding*





### **Festival, worship event featuring Andy Hawthorne.**

On the weekend of 18th/19th June, we're hosting the 'Love Poynton Festival' at Vernon Primary School - two days of town festival - crafts, sport, inflatables, youth concert featuring LZ7 and Saintz, worship event featuring Andy Hawthorne.

And we need your help ...

Could you join the site management team, the neighbourhood team (visiting the neighbours to explain the event), the site preparation team, the site pack-down team, the welcome team, the sports team, the field games team (organising kids' competitions), the craft teams (organising a craft activity in one of our stalls), the inflatables team, the first aid team, the litter-picking team ... Please let us know what team you would like to join by messaging

[Leshutch15@gmail.com](mailto:Leshutch15@gmail.com)

07805 154790

We are also looking for ideas for a mission week, 'Love Where You Live',

### **A.S.A.P.**

Ever wonder about the about abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives, but maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry -  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest -  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather -  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And he'll respond to all your needs  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

*Taken from "A Bundle of Laughs" - J. John & Mark Stibbe*

**The Bible is the  
only book where the author is always  
present whenever it is read.**

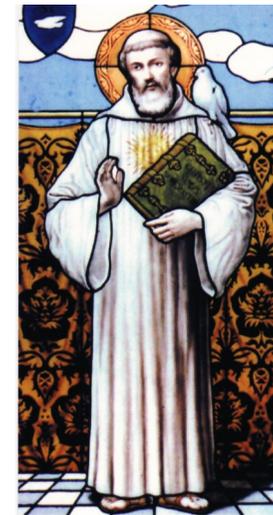
## For all the Saints Not Quite All!

In the late 6<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gregory sent Augustine from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. He began his mission in Kent where the King was at least tolerant of the faith, possibly because his wife, Queen Bertha, was already a Christian. Augustine's mission was effective and he himself eventually became first Archbishop of Canterbury.

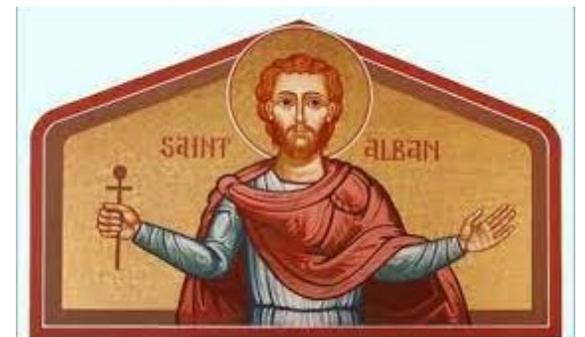
He died on 26<sup>th</sup> May 604 (or as some records say 609) but his feast day is 27<sup>th</sup> May.



A little earlier, St Columba had come from Ireland to convert the Picts in Scotland. Born in 521 he had been raised and trained as a monk and brought twelve of his fellow monks with him. They settled on Iona and were known as warriors as well as missionaries and had a powerful influence on Scotland's history. Columba died in 597 and the community he built on Iona is an attraction as a place of pilgrimage to this day. His feast day is 9<sup>th</sup> June and International Celtic Art Day is still observed on that date.



St Alban was born in Verulamium in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and is known as the first British Christian martyr. The Romans still occupied much of the country but persecution of Christians was common. Alban was sheltering a priest, Amphibulas, and when discovery seemed inevitable, he offered to change cloaks in an attempt to save him. However, Alban was captured and tried but refusing to deny his faith, was beheaded. Amphibulas was also captured a few days later and stoned to death. Alban's feast day is 22 June and he is remembered each year in the Cathedral by a re-enactment with puppets.



*Susan Warrington*

## Name that Hymn

The lines below come from well known hymns. Can you identify them?

- 1 It causes me to tremble....
- 2 Friends on earth and friends above....
- 3 Frail children....
- 4 With many a conflict....
- 5 Opened the life gate....
- 6 Crisp and even....
- 7 Refreshing rain....
- 8 With a well tuned heart....
- 9 A shining throng....
- 10 Joys grow dim....



Members of the choir enjoying their annual dinner at the Golf Club recently attempted 24 different ones and were ashamed to find that there were several not recognised by one team or the other! Scores of 14 and 11 were the best we could do!!

Nevertheless a good time (and a good meal) was had by all. Just hope we don't have to wait two years for the next one!!

*Susan Warrington*

*Answers in the next edition*

## Friends of St George's

The Friends exist to assist in safeguarding and enhancing the fabric and amenities of the Church and the churchyard and are able to make donations to groups within the Church, such as the choir and bell ringers, to whom we have provided relatively small amounts at their request. We made a significant sum available to the refurbishment of the lych gate and recently purchased a new Advent frontal for the altar to replace a much worn one.

Our social life is gradually opening up again and trips such as that to Trentham Gardens last September are being arranged once more. We are planning to visit Thornbridge Hall Gardens this coming June and are considering a half day out later on. Liverpool is another idea under consideration. Do let us know if the idea appeals.

Details of trips and events will be in the Parish Newsletters. We were happy to play a part in arranging the well attended Church Open Day in September which was our contribution to National Heritage Week. Watch out for a repeat in 2023!

We are always delighted to have new members so if you are interested please do contact any Committee member or the Church Office. Membership leaflets are available in Church and in the Hall and you would receive information and Newsletters from time to time. Subscriptions are £25 per person or £35 per couple.



We look forward to seeing members and non-members alike at any occasion in our programme.

*Susan Warrington (Chairman) 874823*  
*Alice Lees (Membership Secretary) 874859*

