



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

January 2021



**"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face;
my heart said unto thee, Thy face,
LORD, will I seek."**

Psalms 27:8 (KJV)

Welcome

Welcome



Poynton Parish Church



Happy New Year! I guess like me your celebration of Christmas and of the New Year may not have been what you had planned or expected (we started eating our Christmas cake in early December, so that it was finished by the end of the month!).

Across our country, and across the world, lives, families and communities are being impacted and changed by Covid-19. Our faith in God encourages us to see the certain hope of God's love, whatever we face. At this time of year we remember the journey of the magi, seeking to worship the new-born King; a reminder that Jesus is the hope for all the world! The Christmas decorations may have come down, but the good news of Jesus remains. God's loving rescue is undimmed by the passing of time.

Can I invite you to spend some time in prayer today, asking for God's help as we begin a New Year? Will you be bold in committing to seek God, even in the uncertainties of our current situation?

My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!'

Your face, Lord, I will seek

Psalm 27:8

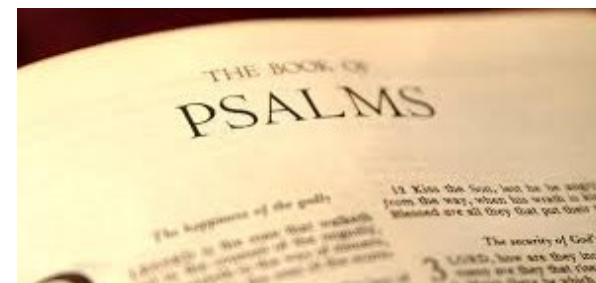
Sometimes we see in the book of Psalms these conversations between the teller of story and their heart or soul. Sometimes there is questioning, like in Psalm 43 "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?", sometimes encouraging. The verse from Psalm 27 is an encouragement to look to God, not to ourselves. We need to hear this as we begin a new year, but also as we can be so caught up in our own worries and concerns. Seeking God's face, relationship with him and blessing from him, doesn't mean we don't still have concerns, or problems in our lives, but it assures us that we are not alone, and there is hope ahead.

I wonder if you've made any new year's resolutions? Or made a decision about changing your diet or spending habits? Or made plans for giving more time or space to your prayer life or Bible reading? It is not too late, to seek God and ask for his help in shaping our lives in accordance with his word and promise.

However you are feeling about 2021, let us all seek God and commit ourselves to living in the light of his goodness and love,

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



In God's Hands

I rejoice in the hands of God,
Today, tomorrow and forever.

I am ever in the hands of God,
Powerful hands to support me,
Gentle hands to uphold me,
Peaceful hands to calm me,
Guiding hands to lead me,
Loving hands to enfold me,
Healing hands to strengthen me,
Redeeming hands to save me,
Graceful hands to accept me.
Rejoice in the hands of God,
Today, tomorrow and forever.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

These who have recently been married:

25 th October	Andrew Paul Hurst and Charlotte Emma Ibbotson
21 st December	Edward Charles Westbrook and Sarah Louise Hayward



The family and friends of those who have recently died:

12 th November	Philip Otter	aged 86
13 th November	Pamela Varley	aged 76
17 th November	Betty Roberts Hall	aged 93
4 th December	Patricia Bracken	aged 82
8 th December	Ken Drury	aged 92
8 th December	Geoffrey William Goulden	aged 80
14 th December	Eunice Wild	aged 91
18 th December	Harvey Stanley Mitchell	aged 56

Minnie Louise Haskins - born 1875

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied: *"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better to you than light and safer than a known way".*

The family of Philip Cyril Otter who passed away on 28th October 2020 aged 86 would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the many cards and kind messages which were received. They have been greatly appreciated.

Pauline Carter would like to say a big 'thank you' for all the cards she has received during the last months.

Dear Friends at St George's and St Martin's

Helen and I did eventually move to East Leake on Monday 7 December after a few false starts! The removal company were brilliant and we were installed here by 4pm. After unpacking boxes on Tuesday and hanging a few familiar pictures on the walls it already feels like home. It has been an adjustment getting used to stairs again after living in a bungalow, but having a banister has its plusses!!!

The family are 2.30 minutes away which has been lovely. We've already taken the children to school as part of the child care bubble as Tom and Catherine were working. The local café sells some lovely bacon muffins too!!

The Vicar, Tim, called round on the Tuesday after we moved to welcome us to East Leake and St Mary's Church, which is a 5 minutes walk away. It was lovely to be on the receiving end of a pastoral visit! We attended church on the first Wednesday and felt very pleased to be there.



St Mary's Church, East Leake

It was particularly difficult not being able to say goodbye properly on our last Sunday at St George's and St Martin's and we were overwhelmed by your generous gift. We have decided to use the money to purchase a wood burning stove for our lounge and went to choose one the other day. Installation is likely to be in February, so when we light our fire it will remind us of you all and the wonderful times we had in Poynton Parish. We will send over a picture as soon as we can. I have been seeking advice on stoves and logs from an expert in these matters - Rob!!!

Thank you once again for your generous gifts and may we take this opportunity of wishing you all a happier 2021.

Much love in Christ

Andy and Helen



Can You Help?

Elderly lady with limited mobility, a member of our Church, requires help for 2 hours (9.30 - 11.30) on weekday mornings with showering, dressing and breakfast and a little light housework. £15.00 per hour offered.

For further information, please contact either Lucy on 07909916782 or Katie on 59212038077

2020: A Christmas like no other



Twice corona virus brought changes to everyone's Christmas plans from the government. People began to weary of restrictions, lockdowns, loneliness, and lose heart, with nothing to look forward to.

Here in Poynton we had a carol service at St Martin's, and four at St George's where the small choir was widely distanced. It was wonderful to be physically in church, hum along with the carols, listen to live music and wave to friends. We watched online streamed services, pre-recorded services and heard encouraging sermons as well. All this helped us feel we belonged, that Christmas was still happening, in spite of Covid-19.

Being able to walk every day and frequently 'bump into' people we know and chat across two metres became a highlight. We've all learned to live without so much, take disappointments stalwartly, stick to the rules, rejoice in small and happy times, look out for others living alone, pray more and be thankful for our health.

We had a 'Secret Angel' virtual party in our Home Group. Each of us had a gift given secretly and we opened them in turn on zoom. Then everyone also received a message of support and blessing which we read afterwards.

No, Francis and I couldn't see our Barnsley grandsons, we didn't see our son at all or his family in South Wales, we couldn't go for a festive lunch in Leek and see Martha. BUT ... we talked to Jon on the phone, Laura drove across the Pennines and met us on our drive, we had a Christmas picnic in the canal car park with Deborah and family, we wore layers! These were tiny mercies but SO appreciated.

Meanwhile the Christmas bells rang out across Poynton to herald the carol services. We heard them whilst we were walking at Poynton Pool, as they called us to stick to our faith, our church and our Lord.

Thank you so much to everyone who's helped to make this different Christmas memorable. Happy New Year to you all and every blessing in 2021

Jenny Cooke

New Year's Honours List

Queen Victoria instituted the Birthday Honours list in 1860 and added the New Year's list in 1890. In between, certain specific occasions such as Jubilees and Coronations have been noted. The recently published list probably includes some well known names but many more will be only be known in their own community or interest group.

In typically English, and rather military style, the most prestigious order is that of the new Knights and Dames, mostly famous names such as Judi Dench and most recently of course Sir Tom Moore.

Next come the Commanders of the British Empire, (CBE) awarded for a prominent national role or distinguished contribution in a specific field. Recent examples are Stephen Hawking and Hugh Laurie.

The OBE, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, is awarded for major contributions at a local level or work with a national profile. J.K. Rowling and David Beckham both come into this category.

Last on the list but with a large number awarded each time is the MBE instituted by King George Vth in 1917...Members are rewarded for outstanding achievement or service to the community which has a long term significant impact. Among well-known names are Harry Kane and Rob Brydon but many are not known beyond their own area. Recommendations come from within their community and there have certainly been some from Poynton. If there are some local names in this latest list thanks are due to them on behalf of us all.

Susan Warrington



6th January

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany, the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew called them Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, any myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had these names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

Ich habe genug (I've had enough)

We are approaching the Feast of the Purification, or Candlemas, commemorating the presentation of our Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem. When old Simeon sees Jesus, he recognises Him as the promised Messiah and is then content to die happy, using words immortalised in the Nunc Dimittis. Johann Sebastian Bach composed a cantata for this Feast entitled 'Ich Habe Genug' or 'I've had enough', which expresses Simeon's contentment at seeing Jesus. Here is the antidote to a greedy addition to 'more' - expressed in one word, contentment. For Simeon, Jesus is 'enough' and enough is enough. For us, too, Jesus is more than enough.

Gordon McPhate

25th January The Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



Parish Pump

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

The wonderment of falling snow
Is there for all to see.
But snow puts lives in jeopardy
Blocking roads to you and me.

Nature in it's natural form
Is indeed a splendid sight-
But, - it has another side
Which is ruthless in it's might.

Earthquakes, volcanoes, avalanche slides
Majestic in wonder to see
But the devastation that it hides
Can uproot even the sturdiest tree.

So to God in His Glory
With all his power and might
We praise you for the smallest thing
Not least of all - our sight!

Janet Jones



Yesterday and Today

Having recently included a poem about Eyam, the Plague village, I felt that, in these not dissimilar times, a little more information might be of interest. More rewarding is a visit to the village and the Church, which has many items of Plague interest. (Ed.)

The Plague arrived in the village of Eyam, in Derbyshire, in September 1665, borne in on a tailor's cloth spread out to dry and releasing scores of plague-ridden fleas. By the end of the year, 42 villagers had died and many more were planning to flee and look for shelter elsewhere.

In May 1666, as the weather became warmer the rate of transmission increased and people were still dying.

The rector was William Mompesson, who was not popular as he had been foisted on the Church after the restoration of the monarchy, replacing the popular Thomas Stanley, a keen supporter of Oliver Cromwell.

Nevertheless, William Mompesson persuaded the remaining residents to isolate, quarantining the entire village and avoiding further spread. It is thought that by then there were only 83 villagers left - the Plague sometimes took most of the family but left one survivor - in one case a woman lost her husband and eight children, but lived herself.

William Mompesson and Thomas Stanley put aside their theological differences to stand together as 'partners in the gospel' so that desperate people would receive the comfort and hope of the Gospel.

Church services were conducted outside, in Cucklett Delph, a natural amphitheatre in the hillside on the outskirts of the village. People were seated apart from each other and additional meetings for prayer were held there three times a week. Food was brought to the village and left a safe distance away, while a natural rock hollow nearby was filled with vinegar to disinfect the payment coins. William Mompesson's own wife died and in a letter written to his children (safely with relatives) it is clear that they had a strong, certain faith in God.

Traditional ways had been changed in a matter of weeks, but it is also clear that men and women of Eyam continued to serve and encourage each other and meet regularly in the presence of God.



The first Friday in advent was the date for this year's women's Christmas event. 40 of us got together in the evening via zoom for fellowship.....and origami!

Split into 6 breakout rooms, we had a go at making 2/3 origami crafts - stars,

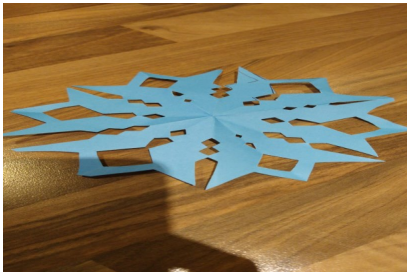
elves and Christmas trees as Deborah, Sarah and Alison moved between rooms.

Gift packs had been delivered beforehand nicely packaged up with Christmas origami paper, mulled wine tea bags, little chocolates and a Hannah Dunnett bookmark - not to forget some of Deborah's infamous florentines.

Afterwards we listened to an advent reflection by Matthew and said goodbye on behalf of all the ladies to Helen Livingston (and Andy) for their friendship and fellowship over the last ten years.

It was a lovely event given the current restrictions. Thank you to all who took part and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Happy New Year everyone!



Alison Moverley



Background Curation The act of conducting Zoom calls before a tableau that's a perfect distillation of your personality. If it's a bookshelf, you're telling the world that you're a big reader. Kitchen? You love domesticity. Blank walls? You've got something to hide.

Cooking for One

First thing: turn your computer off, you've worked since six am. You're absolutely starving and you're on your own, *pro tem*.

So dig a fat white onion out, and dice it very fine,

Add two crushed cloves of garlic and a glass of good red wine,

Then put in oregano, thyme, and sugar (just a tad),

A tin of chopped tomatoes, and the best mince to be had.

If you like throw in some pepper, broken mushrooms, what you will,

Some fennel, even, but leave out the stronger herbs, like dill.

Cook all of this down slowly on an even, gentle heat.

And you'll end with a pasta sauce that's pretty hard to beat.

At this point, pour yourself another glass of something red,

Boil up spaghetti in a pan, or penne shapes instead,

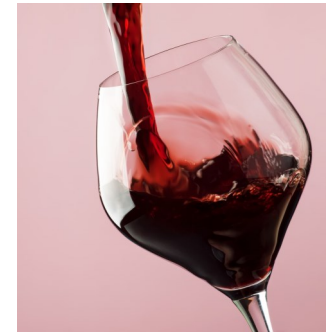
Add just a little oil so that the pasta moves about,

Then drain, supply a shallow bowl, and spoon the supper out.

Italian food is just the thing to cook if you're on furlough;

A dish for one, and perfect with another glass of Merlot.

G M Southgate





Refectory Grace, Chester Cathedral

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
 And also something to digest;
 But when and how that something comes
 I leave to Thee, who knowest best.

Give me a heathy body, Lord;
 Give me the sense to keep it so;
 Also a heart that is not bored
 Whatever work I have to do.

Give me a healthy mind, Good Lord,
 That finds the good that dodges sight;
 And, seeing sin, is not appalled,
 But seeks a way to put it right.

Give me a point of view, Good Lord,
 Let me know what it is, and why.
 Don't let me worry very much
 About the thing that's known as "I"

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
 Give me the power to see a joke,
 To get some happiness from life,
 And pass it on to other folk.

(Written by Thomas Harry Basil Webb (only son of the late Lt. Col. Sir Henry Webb, of Caerleon., Mon.) when a boy at Winchester. As a subaltern in the Welsh Guards, he was killed in the First World War.)

Out of the Mouths!

- ♦ The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- ♦ One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan.
- ♦ David was a Hebrew King who was skilled at playing the liar.
- ♦ Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments.
- ♦ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree and Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built the ark and the animals came on in pears.

True (?) transcriptions of an R.E. test!

Hamsterkauf A lovely German word that means panic-buying. Just as a hamster stuffs its cheeks, you will rush to the supermarket to cram your trolley with as many staples as possible. Do you *really* need six different types of tinned meat? Of course not.



Remembrance of Things Pasta

She blew her fusilli,
my pretty penne,
when she found me watching
daytime tagliatelle.

Je ne spaghetti rien,
I responded in song,
but she did not linguini
for long,

just walked out
without further retort:
a hard lesson to be tortellini,
orzo I thought.

And so here I am,
on my macaroni,
and now my days feel
cannelloni.

Brian Bilston

Leek Risotto with Boursin

3 leeks, finely sliced
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon oil
300g (11 oz) risotto rice, unwashed
150 ml (1/4 pint) white wine
1.2 litres (2 pints) vegetable stock
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon grated parmesan
Ground nutmeg
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
150g (5 oz) Boursin



Serves 2

Heat oil and butter in a saucepan, add leeks and cook for 5 - 10 minutes until soft. Add rice and stir to coat well. Add wine and stir well until it has almost boiled away. Start adding stock gradually, stirring over medium heat. Continue to add enough stock to keep rice wet, while allowing it to absorb and cook. When rice is just tender, add butter, parmesan, nutmeg, parsley and 150g of Boursin. Season. Stir well to melt cheese.

✶ *Audrey Pick*

Answers to 'Weather Quiz'

1. Sunshine 2. Rain 3. Monsoon 4. Snow 5. Overcast 6. Tornado
7. Hail 8. Zephyr 9. Frost 10. Rainbow 11. Drizzle 12. Gale
13. Hailstone 14. Smog 15. Ozone Layer 16. Torrent 17. Chilly
18. Calm 19. Gulf Stream 20. Mackerel Sky.

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Sent in by Dave McClelland



The Weather

The answers are to do with the weather and the environment.

1. Bring me (8)
2. This falls mainly on the plain in Spain (4)
3. Put sun and moon together (7)
4. Men can be made from this (4)
5. Six balls thrown? (8)
6. Could be a plane (7)
7. Could be a greeting (4)
8. Could be a car (6)
9. David or Jack (5)
10. A variety of trout (7)
11. Fine but wet (7)
12. Girl (4)
13. The liaison I left confused (9)
14. Go backward with the beginning of smoke (4)
15. There is apparently a hole in this (5,5)
16. Can be water or abuse (7)
17. Sounds like a hot vegetable (6)
18. Still small voice of (4)
19. Middle East Water (4, 6)
20. Fishy heaven (8,3)

Answers on previous page



JANUARY COLD

Is it cold or snowing while you are reading this? January is the coldest month of the year and traditionally 14th January is supposed to be the coldest day on the year.

On at least 2 occasions on 14th January the River Thames froze in London. In 1716 and again in 1814, Londoners held Frost Fairs on the frozen river. There were ox-roasts, stalls, tents and sports on the ice – even a printing press was set up on the ice! When the thaw came some people were drowned and lots of equipment floated out to sea.



One of the ways of warming up is to light a bonfire. In some country areas bonfires were lit on the bare fields, one to represent Our Lords and one each for the 11 apostles. If a

thirteenth bonfire was lit, representing Judas Iscariot, it was stamped out just after being lit.

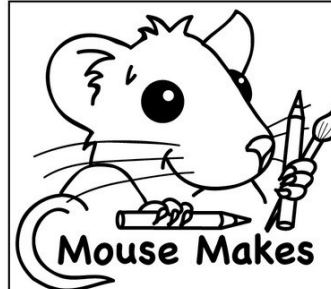
JANUARY SAINT

The answer to each question is the name of a person in the Bible. When you have all the answers, rearrange the first letter of each name to make the name of a saint whose festival is celebrated in January. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. He built the Ark (Genesis 6)
2. Paul's assistant (Acts 19)
3. Father of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 21)
4. King Saul's father (1 Samuel 9)
5. Eunice's son (2 Timothy 1)
6. Ruth's mother in law (Ruth)
7. Laban's daughter, mother of Joseph (Genesis 29)
8. Giant killed by David (1 Samuel 17)
9. The first woman (Genesis 3)

Who invented the first fire place?
Alfred the Grate.

Answers: 1 Noah 2 Erastus 3 Isaac 4 Kish 5 Timothy 6 Naomi 7 Rachel 8 Goliath 9 Eve. The letters spell out KENTIGERN (also known as Mungo) founder of the church at Glasgow, whose day is celebrated on 14th January.

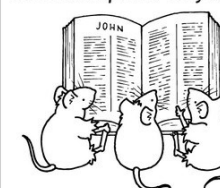


**"Oh, Teach us
to live well!
Teach us to live
wisely and well!"**

from Psalm 90:12 MSG



**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.**



**Seek his will in all
you do, and He
will show you which
path to take.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

**"Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying.**



**Whatever happens,
always be thankful."**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

**"Be kind and loving to each other,
and forgive each other
just as God forgave you in Christ."**

Ephesians 4:32



**"The Lord has told you... what he wants
from you: to do what is right to
other people, love being kind to others
and live humbly obeying your God."**

Micah 6:8



Cut out these Scripture
verse cards to remind
you this new year of how
God wants us to live.