



November 2021

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

**Welcome**



*Poynton Parish Church*

  
*St Martin's*  
Higher Poynton

  
*St George's*  
Poynton

Already the Christmas present catalogues are beginning to drop through the letterbox... which is something of a distraction for a family with a number of birthdays in November! The season of Christmas can all too easily be about who has bought what for whom, and what time the turkey needs to go in the oven on Christmas morning; but for the Christian it is a wonderful chance to celebrate the gift of Jesus and to take the opportunity to share that gift of the good news with others.

This term at St George's we've been working our way through Matthew's gospel – using the phrase “The Kingdom of Heaven” to guide us. We've thought about what it means to be those who are part of the kingdom, how it impacts our heads, hearts and hands! We've also seen Jesus invite people to join the kingdom, to find hope and life. I pray that as we've heard Jesus speak to us we would be those who are in the business of inviting people too. It would be great to be thinking about who you could invite to Christmas services and events at St George's, but it is also worth thinking about the rest of the year. David Winter wrote these words back in the 1970s:

“Eloquent speeches, visual aids, films, seminars and discussion groups are, after all, no substitute for the daily, unspectacular witness of the rank and file Christian. If that witness is consistent and open, then no improvement in tactics or strategy will better it as a means of winning people for Christ. If it is not, then no evangelistic programme, no matter how ambitious or sophisticated, will make the slightest impact.”

His point is clear, the best communicators of God's love are those who are constant and those who are faithful in living in a way that reflects God's truth, and in sharing their faith with others in ordinary conversations.

So take the opportunity in the run up to Christmas, to talk about what Christmas means to you, whether that is discussing plans for Christmas in the office or at the school gate, or in inviting a neighbour to one of the carol services.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

24<sup>th</sup> October Zara Phoebe Prudence Bowles

24<sup>th</sup> October Jacob Peter Taylor

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

11<sup>th</sup> October Sarah Singleton aged 92

15<sup>th</sup> October Matthew Ellison aged 48

25<sup>th</sup> October Doreen Stubbs aged 89



## Praise the Lord

Last night I talked unto the Lord and told Him I was sad  
But first of all I thanked Him for all that made me glad.

I thanked Him for my sight, with which I see such beauty,  
The sun, the moon and stars you see,  
Are all there to do their duty.

For God alone is ruler of all that we survey  
And so it was I ended upon my knees to pray.

I brought before Him all the souls I once knew and loved  
There seem to have been so many, that have gone to Him above.

And as I recalled each one by name,  
Into my heart came the refrain  
"Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna" -  
Words of course from a well known hymn  
We sing it often to the glory of Him.

And so you see God answered my prayer  
And those words came to tell me He is there  
Watching over all those who are sad  
To lift their hearts and make them feel glad.

*Thanks to Janet Jones*

## A prayer for the World

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.

*Taken from Christ Church, Woodford Church Magazine*

## Sunday Service

The ancient usher creaking at the door,  
the well-scrubbed acolyte.  
The polished floor,  
the sermon, also polished, words arranged  
precisely as the flowers on the altar -  
all would appear to come before the Lord  
decently and in order.

But what about the turmoil in the soul -  
the rebel spirit, the reluctant heart?  
These are not quite so easily  
scoured, arranged, subdued.  
Spotless the linen - but the congregation?

Knowing our hearts, our secrets, our desires,  
God asks us still  
to light our spirits at his Spirit's fires  
and eat and drink our fill.

*Taken from 'Poems for Public Worship'*

## POYNTON, POPPIES AND REMEMBRANCE DAY

It seems a long time since the Remembrance Day parade last set foot down Park Lane.

Hopefully, as things start to get back to normal, this year's parade will swing back into life to remember those who sacrificed their lives or sustained unimaginable injuries during the 2 world wars and the many conflicts that have occurred since then.

On 14th November the Parade Marshall will lead Poynton (*Vernon*) marching Brass Band and the Standard Bearers as they make their way from the Civic Centre car park, down Park Lane freshly adorned with lamp post poppies, to arrive at St George's Church in time for the church service.

At the Church the parade will split in two parts, to allow easy access to church by way of the North and South doors.

As well as the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Service and Civic Dignitaries, Members of the Royal British Legion, and uniformed groups many other representatives of our town, will be welcomed for the first time by our new Vicar, Rev. Matthew Swires-Hennessy, who, although having been invested in July last year, will be experiencing his first Remembrance service in Poynton. A true baptism by fire.

Mentioning poppies also evokes memories of last year when all seemed lost until stalwarts from the Poynton Branch of the British Legion went that extra mile to rescue what could have been a paltry collection but went on to accrue an, albeit smaller, but nevertheless worthwhile collection of £4,500, unquestionably low on the previous year's figures, but a testament of what can be done when the chips are down.

After the service, the Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths around the War Memorial commences when the Bugler plays the last post, followed by the words of the *Exhortation* and the eleventh-hour chimes of the church bells. Then after the 2 two-minute silence and Reveille we hear the moving words of the *Kohima*, delivering so much power in only 17 well-chosen words.

Following the march past along Park Lane the parade returns to the Carpark and disperses.

Lastly the Town is indebted to the British Legion Club, who along with the Poynton Women's Institute, continue the tradition of hosting a reception in the Club's premises on George's Road West giving everyone a chance to relax and listen to the Poynton Legion Brass Band.

And just to mention, on the 11th of November, the traditional Armistice Day service of paying respect to those lying in War Graves within St. George's Churchyard will take place at 10.45am.

*Let's just hope the weather plays fair for both events.!*

*Patrick Bailey*



## A New Rope for the Bell at St Martin's

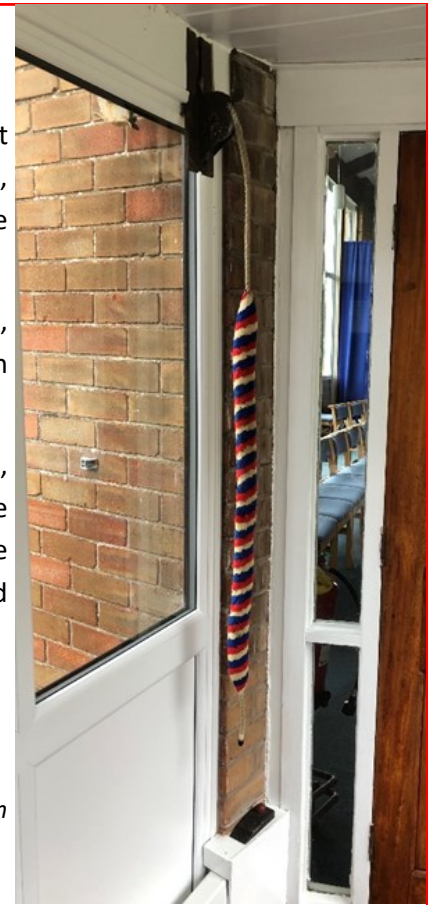
Several years ago, we replaced the rope on the bell at St Martin's. Most bell ropes are made from hemp, but since the one at St Martin's is partly outside, we had to use a man-made fibre to withstand the weather. This was not particularly soft on the hands and, although we tied some knots in the rope near to the bottom end (to assist with gripping) it was not a satisfactory solution whilst the bell was being swung.

The bell ropes at St George's include a 'sally' which is made of wool and incorporated into the rope when it is being made. Also, developments in the manufacture of bell ropes meant that they are now have a top end of terylene, whilst retaining the bottom end in hemp and using a machine to splice the two different materials together.

When we replaced one of the ropes at St George's it seemed logical to try the old rope at St Martin's. To do this, our Tower Captain, David Friend, cut off the bottom of the rope just below the sally and made a neat splice so that rope did not come unravelled. Then the rope was tried for length at St Martin's by Malcolm Wood and Peter Dyson to make sure that the terylene top passed through the pulley and that none of the hemp was exposed outside to the elements. Finally, the rope was tied to the bell wheel, cut to length and the end melted to prevent unravelling.

Job complete and the ringer at St Martin's (usually Malcom) has a nice soft sally to grip!

*Peter Dyson*



## Friday Evening 1st October



A group of thirty ladies from St George's Church enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Appayon in the village.

The Indian meal was excellent, plus all the chatter and laughter - a very happy evening. All arranged by Val, Alison and Kate. Thank you so much.

It was great to be able to enjoy good company once again, after all the terrible months of lockdown.

*Marie K. Bennett*



## Hello!

It's somehow been over a month now since I started my role as Children's and Youth Minister here at St George's (time flies!). So it's about time I introduced myself here for those I haven't been able to meet in person yet!

Before moving to Poynton to start this role, I lived in Belper, Derbyshire, where my family and I have lived since I was a child. I

previously worked as a Ministry Trainee at St Alkmund's Church, Duffield for around 4 years whilst I completed a Theology and Youth Work degree at Moorlands College. But it was actually even earlier than this that I discovered a love for youth and children's ministry! St Alkmund's was my home church, so I grew up and was disciplined through church youth work, and since I was a teenager myself I had been helping out with children's work and getting involved with the discipleship of younger generations. So it's a real privilege and a joy to now be able to do this full time and pass on the same gospel that my leaders taught me when I was young, to many more children today!

Outside of work, I'm also a lover of cats (my cat Nala is settling in well to the new house and has already decided that she owns the place!), musicals, and literally anything Christmas related (don't be surprised if you spot me in a Christmas jumper in November!).

I'm so enjoying being here with you all in Poynton already! Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly, and I look forward to all that God has in store for me and for all of us here in time to come.

Carys Lesley



## When someone you loved is dead

*The Revd John Tyler considers what it means to remember.*

Since my wife passed away in July 2020, I have often been asked, "What are you learning from your grief journey?" Here are a few standout lessons:

1. That grief takes longer than you think to work itself through, and it can't be rushed. It is a journey you must take slowly.
2. That when you lose your spouse, you lose not only the person you loved, but the person who loved you. This second loss leaves a hole in your heart, making you very vulnerable to new relationships.
3. That you will need to re-discover your identity as God's deeply loved child in this season of your life, as if you had never known it before.
4. That God can be trusted to help you rebuild your life, but trust may not come easily. It is better to focus on God's trustworthiness than on your ability to trust, which may be shaky.
5. That your experience of grief and your response to loss is unique and personal, so don't compare your journey to that of others.
6. That good friends can make the journey so much easier. Be prepared to ask for help.
7. That you will be ambushed by grief. Some things will take you by surprise, especially the little things.
8. That the loss of a spouse will leave you feeling very lonely, even when you are surrounded by family and friends. This is not a weakness, just a sign of what you have lost.
9. That loneliness is not a mental illness, just a natural response to being bereaved, and it will get better.
10. That moving forward is not a sign that you didn't care, but that there is still a life to be lived and not wasted.

*Parish Pump*

## Lest We Forget

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

*'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people,



communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

*'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.'*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'*

Parish Pump

## Thanks

Many thanks to the members of Poynton Women's Institute who made and arranged so many poppies with which they decorated the lych-gate so memorably.



Ed.

## Medical Terms for Non-Medical People

<b>Artery:</b>	The study of paintings
<b>Bacteria:</b>	The back door to cafeteria
<b>Barium:</b>	What doctors do when patients die
<b>Caesarean section:</b>	A neighbourhood in Rome
<b>Catscan:</b>	Searching for Kitty
<b>Cauterize:</b>	Made eye contact with her
<b>Coma:</b>	A punctuation mark
<b>Enema:</b>	Not a friend
<b>Fester:</b>	Quicker than someone else
<b>Labour Pain:</b>	Getting hurt at work
<b>Nitrates:</b>	Cheaper than day rates
<b>Outpatient:</b>	A person who has fainted
<b>Post-operative</b>	A letter carrier
<b>Recovery room:</b>	Place to do upholstery
<b>Terminal illness:</b>	Falling ill at the airport

