



October 2021

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

Welcome



Poynton Parish Church



September is often a term of new beginnings – for schools and sometimes for starting a first or new job. It is also a marker in our life as a church: we were able to gather from across the congregations for a BBQ lunch on the field at St Martin's on the first Sunday, children's and youth groups have restarted, and three congregations are meeting across our two churches Sunday by Sunday.

We've started a new sermon series at St George's looking at the 'Kingdom of Heaven'. Over the next term we are going to be making our way through Matthew's gospel, week by week hearing the words of Jesus, observing his actions and miracles. The word 'gospel' simply means good news... and Jesus is clear that the good news he brings is of a new way of relating to God, a new way of living and a new way of looking to the future. We'll learn the ways of the 'Kingdom of Heaven', what others refer to as the Kingdom of God... not a physical kingdom, but you can see it, not a political kingdom but it has a rule, a king, not an armed kingdom but it is in a battle.

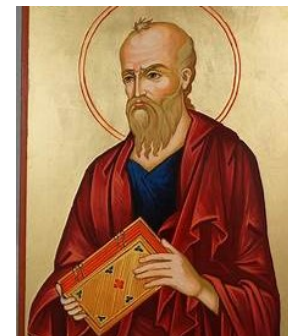
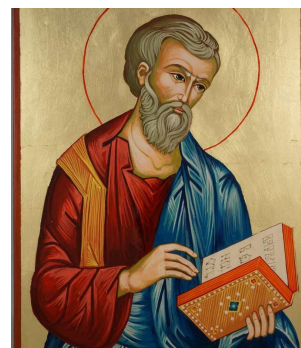
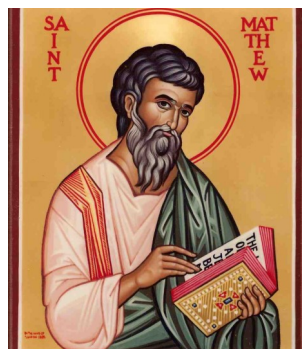
As we allow these words to speak to us, they will challenge us – we will be encouraged to reset, to recalibrate our understanding of Jesus, so that the one we follow is the Jesus of the Bible.

And the focus will not just be on so-called spiritual things, or thinking right thoughts... Jesus is going to speak about money, taxes and generosity, he'll condemn empty religiosity, he'll uphold the goodness of faithfulness in marriage between one man and one woman, he'll declare in word and deed his unique identity and mission – and call women and men to follow him as his disciples.

Can I encourage you to read Matthew's gospel for yourself, allowing the words to challenge and encourage you to live for God each and every day.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

These who have recently received Baptism or Thanksgiving

26th September Holly Elizabeth Tebay

26th September Samuel Philip Tebay

These who have recently been married

10th September Chris Abbott and Jen Marion

The family and friends of those who have recently died:

9th September Eileen Ellen Stockton

28th September Eveline Jones



Return to Church

Faces masked,
hands gelled,
eyes bright,
we entered in ...
TOGETHER

Masks off,
greetings
familiar smiles,
warm glances,
TOGETHER

Face to face,
contact, thanksgiving,
prayer and praise
masked singing
TOGETHER

Expressions of love
for God and one another
TOGETHER

Rosanne Alcraft

Judith Smith

Hello! I am Judith Smith and I have been asked to write a few words to tell you about myself.

I was born in Wiltshire and grew up there, moving to Somerset when I was 11 as my father, who taught maths, changed to a different school. From an early age I always enjoyed drawing, painting and anything creative. After a year out at the end of school I went to Art College in Liverpool where I studied for a degree in Fine Art, followed by an Art Teacher's qualification.

My teaching career took me from a girls' grammar school to a comprehensive school, both on the outskirts of Liverpool, and finally to a small private school in Chester.

By this time I was married and we had moved to a village a few miles east of Chester. Our place of worship was in a small rural parish in the next village, and there I was asked to consider Reader Training. I did this based in Chester, followed by a Theology degree.

I spent over 40 years in that same house and parish, so it was a big upheaval when Geoff and I decided that living in a village was great... while we could still drive... but maybe it was sensible to think ahead.

We moved to Poynton nearly 2 years ago and have found it so friendly and welcoming in spite of the complications of Covid. We really feel very much at home here now!





Poynton's Annual Civic Service is the one occasion in the year that the ecclesiastical parish and the civil parish meet formally. This year's service- the first since 2019 because of cancellations due to the covid pandemics- was different to those in previous years, very largely because of COVID restrictions. Instead of being combined with one of St. George's usual Sunday morning services in late July, it was held separately on the afternoon of Sunday September 26th. In attendance were Lee Podmore, the Mayor of Poynton with Worth, several members of the Town Council, Civic Dignitaries from Macclesfield, Pott Shrigley and Prestbury, children from several of Poynton's scout, guide, cub and brownie packs carrying their flags, representatives of Churches Together, our Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant and some of the recipients of the Town Council Civic Awards for services to the village. One of Poynton's CCSOs carried the Town Council Flag.

The Civic Party entered the church accompanied by the very enjoyable sound of the church organ. The service followed the normal pattern of morning services, with a welcome by Matthew, our vicar, followed by hymns and two readings from the Holy Bible. The service, whose theme was 'Serving the Community' was led by Matthew. The Old Testament reading was from the Book of Psalms, Mayor Lee Podmore reading verses 1-14 from Psalm 27, and from the Gospels, our local member of Parliament David Rutley, read from Matthew 7:7-12. Vicar Matthew preached on the theme of 'Having the Wisdom to make the Right Decisions' and how scripture can be a wonderful source of advice, help and support. This was thought provoking and very relevant to those engaged in public service who were in attendance.

It was lovely to see the choir in their gowns and during the service they beautifully sang 'Seek Ye First' as a round. The congregation were well led by the choir, accompanied by the organ and enthusiastically joined in the singing, although wearing masks!

The service concluded with the National Anthem.

We in Poynton are so fortunate to have such accomplished musicians to enhance our religious experiences.

Following the service all members of the congregation were invited back to the civic hall for a welcome from the Town Mayor followed by afternoon tea provided by the Poynton Rea Rooms and the presentation of the Civic Awards, both those for the deserving adults and youth of Poynton with Worth.



.Jo Sewart

Open Day at St George's as part of National Heritage Week

St George's held a very successful Open Day on Saturday 11 September 2021 as part of national heritage week. It was delightful to see a steady stream of visitors throughout the event, covering the full age range, right from babies in their buggies.



Visitors were treated to a variety of music in the church throughout the day, tours of the tower and the rare opportunity to see church treasures, including communion plate, donated by the Vernon family in 1806, which are not normally on display. The vicar, Reverend Matthew Swires-Hennessy, members of the church and of the Friends of St George's Committee were on hand to point out the special features, including the Book of Homilies, the miner's lamp which is of particular significance to Poynton, the beautifully embroidered kneelers and altar frontals, the brass eagle lectern, the Waring and Gillow lights and the stunning stained glass windows.



Bright Stars and the Brownies had each set up wonderfully vibrant displays, depicting their activities, which attracted a great deal of attention. It was really uplifting to see the children's enthusiasm and excitement about being in the church.

A time-line showing significant events, both nationally and specific to St George's, since the church was built, and showing the vicars past and present, was greatly appreciated and admired.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped and to those who attended.



Sandra Sharp

Nature's Colourful Palette

Red and noble, the graceful deer,
Reddish brown, the scampering squirrels.
Brown, the summer-coated hare.
Brown, the rabbits with bobbing white tails.
Black-faced, the pine martins, striped-faced badgers.
Shiny black, the scurrying beetles.
Black and red, the quarrying ants.
White, the small butterflies.
Brown the fluttering moths.



Brightly-coloured, peacocks and painted ladies.
Black and white, the slow flapping lapwings
Dark, the hovering raptors -
eagles, buzzards, red kites.
Black-crested, the elusive broken-trilling crested tits.
Red-shanked, the oyster-catchers.
White, the common gulls, black-backed, other gulls.
Multi-coloured, pheasant, king of showmen.

Rosanne Alcraft

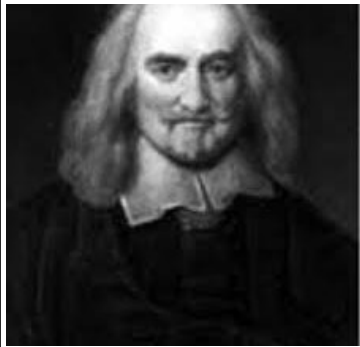
Harvest Time

Covid keeps reminding us that things are not yet quite back to what we might call normal and although this year's Harvest Festival will be observed at both St. George's and St. Martin's on October 10, the emphasis will be on gathering food and supplies for the most needy in our area through the various agencies such as food banks.

Nevertheless, we can still look back on the days of Harvest Suppers and the church being full of fruit and vegetables, and bread in the form of a sheaf of corn in pride of place on the altar, with gratitude and thankfulness to the farming community, especially in our area, and give thanks to God for his goodness.



The Wisdom of Thomas Tusser



Thomas Tusser was an agricultural writer and poet in the mid-sixteenth century and many of his words of advice and wisdom were couched in succinct and memorable rhymes and, incidentally, seem to still be considered relevant today.

His words on Harvest, some of them wryly put, are amusing and useful, even if they applied principally in pre- mechanisation times.

“ One boy is a boy; two boys is half a boy and three boys is no boy at all” !!

On the subject of Harvest he has this to offer on the duties of the Harvest Lord or principal reaper, “Grant harvest lord more by a penny or two, to call on his fellows the better to do,

Give gloves to thy reapers, a largess to cry, and daily to loiterers have a good eye.”

But then, Harvest being safely in, he advises “ In harvest time, harvest folk, servants and all, should make good cheer together in the Hall, and fill out the black bowl of beith(?) to their song, and let them be merry all harvest time long, Once ended their harvest let none be beguiled; please pay such as did help thee, man, woman and child.

Thus doing, with always such help as they can, thou winnest the praise of the labouring man.”



Come and join us and bring a friend"



We are very excited to announce that the retired lunches will recommence on the 6th October. We plan to serve a light lunch such as quiches, baked potatoes with salad, soup and sandwiches, followed by cake or fruit and coffee/tea. They will cost £5 and will be held on the first Wednesday of the month after communion at 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the notice board in the church hall. Please let us know if you have dietary requirements such as vegetarian, diabetic or any other needs so we can cater as far as is possible for your enjoyment. The retired lunch team looks forward to welcoming you all back.

Krys Turner

“Sweet Singing in the Choir”

The choir closed the Open Day by singing some favourite pieces finishing with the blessing “Go Now In Peace.”

We are always glad to welcome new members; no need to be able to read music, just a commitment to rehearsal on Thursday evening and attendance at the Sunday service. If you can play the piano or organ expect a particularly warm welcome!!

We are a team of people who just try to serve God and the congregation and enjoy each other’s company. If you feel drawn to try the choir there are leaflets with more information at the back of Church.

One member who put this into words is Sue Allcock. I love the sense of history and tradition which comes with choir membership. Church choir music goes back 1400 years to the monastic tradition and if you count the Jewish custom of singing the Psalms, even further. Although cathedral choirs are very visible and much admired, the humbler parish church choir is carrying that tradition forward.

The choir is there to lead and encourage the congregation in praise, not to put on a flawless performance. There is also the challenge of preparing new music in a shorter time scale, and the challenge when the musical director comes in to the vestry to announce “People, there is a change to published programme. Instead of Hymn XX it's Hymn YY”. Thus ensuring frantic scrabbling for the right one in two minutes!

To experience choral singing is to become part of a family, sometimes a countrywide or even international family.

So if you recognise and enjoy the love of God, please consider joining the choir. I was very nervous when I took that first step through the vestry door but I have never for a moment regretted it. God has called me and in the words of St Augustine “ he who sings, prays twice.

The Choristers' Prayer

“ Bless, oh Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Susan Warrington and Sue Allcock





Since we got our premises on Park Lane, Poynton a few weeks ago we've been hard at work! Work has been completed on the electrics and plumbing and we're just finishing off the last bits of joinery

and decorating.

This week we've started to fill the shop with the equipment and furniture we need to make it an attractive, appealing space. This is the fun bit! Our scooping freezer arrived yesterday and it's BIG and BEAUTIFUL! Ready to display 18 flavours of delicious hand made ice cream!

Our kitchen (at the back of the shop) is bigger than you may expect because it will play a key role in training and supporting the beneficiaries of our charity - survivors of modern slavery who are rebuilding their lives after trauma.

So many different people have helped us get this far in big and small ways. Whether you've supported us financially, practically, prayerfully or in another way... ...THANKYOU! We couldn't do it without you! Hope to see you once we're open - hopefully in late October!



St George's Wine Society

At last, we were able to begin our Wine Group meetings after 18 months! The first meeting was held on 24 September in St George's Hall and we had 36 people come along, including some new members. We explored a 'Staycation Visit' to some English vineyards in Norfolk, East Sussex, Suffolk and Kent. We also looked at the development of paper bottles to help the environment.



Do come along as we are always looking for new members. We meet on the 4th Friday of the month in the Hall. You will enjoy some wines you might not otherwise have tasted, meet some lovely people etc etc. Our next meeting on 22 October at 7.45 for 8.00pm is entitled 'There's more to Spain than Rioja'!

For more information contact Val Vibrans on 875881. You will enjoy meeting others and sampling wines. We look forward to seeing you.

Val



Friends of St George's Outing



On Tuesday 14th September, a group of around 33 of us joined the Friends of St George's coach outing to Trentham Park, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Our driver thoughtfully avoided the M6, and instead took us via the A34 scenic route both ways. The weather was disappointingly dull though dry, and there was not too much colour in the gardens at this time of year, however, most of the group enjoyed the many different walks, the lakeside scenery and the variety of shops and cafes. I also spent some time exploring around the back of the derelict Hall and extensive outbuildings - somewhat spooky! There is a plan to restore all this sympathetically as a luxury hotel, but no progress yet due to Covid delays. The pretty church was not open, but I was able to see the unusual family mausoleum on the far side of the main road. A very enjoyable and welcome day out was had by all, and we look forward to more of the same!



Keith Jagers

Walking Group

Our parish hikes take place on the second Saturday of each month. We meet at the church car park, usually at 9.30am, sharing transport to the start of the walk if people are comfortable with that. Different group members take turns to lead the walks, which are normally 6 – 8 miles long and not too strenuous, but the leader will give a short description of the walk by email, so that you know what to expect. In any case walking boots are a must as is a packed lunch and waterproofs and occasionally sun cream and hat, given the vagaries of the British weather. We aim to end up at a café or pub for a convivial drink afterwards.



This year our hikes resumed in June, after a long lapse of several months. This was the point at which 30 people were allowed to meet outdoors, and so 18 of us plus 5 dogs, desperate to get going again, did a 6 mile local circuit around Pott Shrigley and Lyme Park. It was great to be walking together again. The July walk was more ambitious and we were fewer in number. Dave, our experienced, outdoorsy and knowledgeable coordinator took us further afield to

the Roaches and Ramshaw Rocks on a glorious, warm, sunny day, ending up at Tittesworth Lake. Colin struggled under a heavy rucksack, regretting having taken full waterproofs! For the August walk, under a rather overcast sky, we returned to Staffordshire, to the Dane valley. This was an interesting and varied walk, punctuated by a fair number of rather awkward stiles! In September we did a five Derbyshire Dales walk, starting from Tideswell. The sun shone on us, bringing out the late summer beauty of the Wye valley. We learnt about the grim industrial past of these, now picturesque dales. Their dark, satanic mills are now upmarket apartment blocks.

Not only do the walks provide us with fresh air, healthy exercise and beautiful views as we explore the countryside, but also good company, as we enjoy chatting and getting to know each other better. On the last walk we welcomed two new people. If you would be interested in coming on the walks, please get in touch with our coordinator, David Markham a.k.a Wigley Woggled, dmacoustics@hotmail.com

Stephanie Rookwood



Derbyshire Dales

