



September 2021

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

*Welcome*

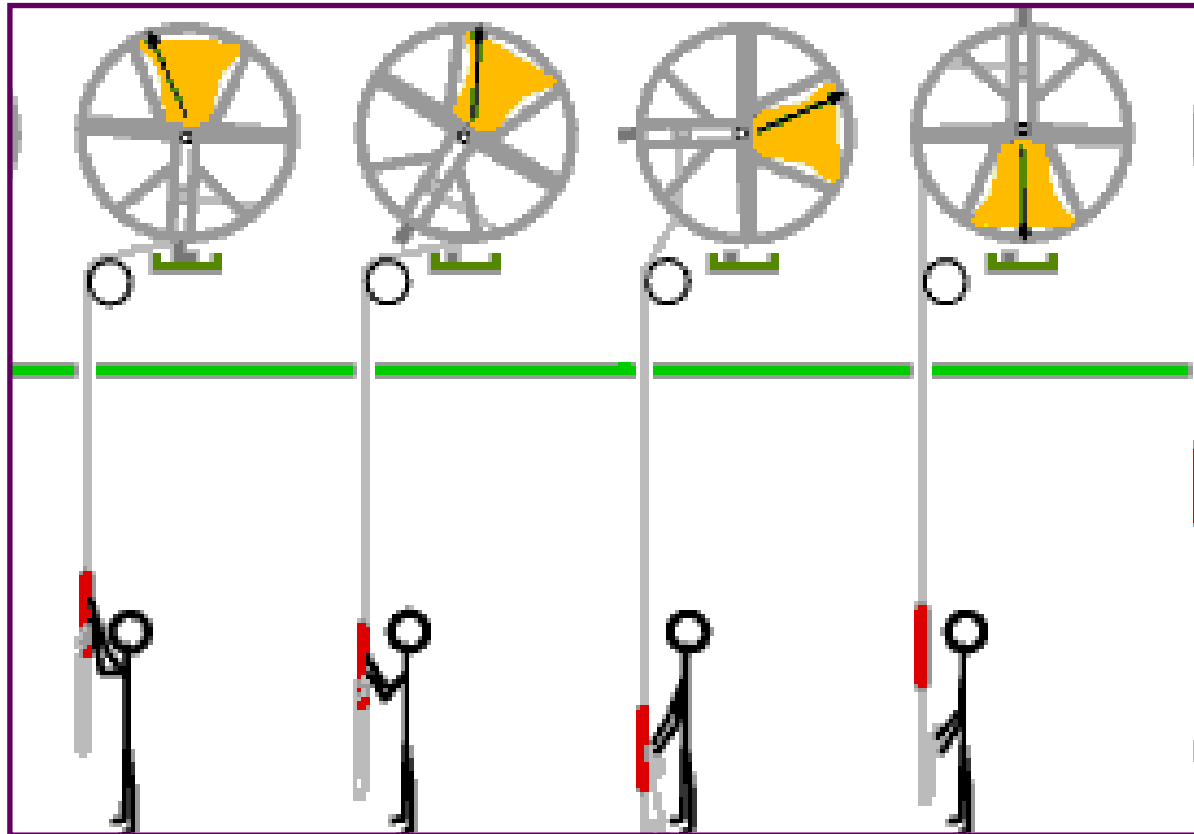


Image courtesy of Fortran Friends



*Poynton Parish Church*



I wonder if you have a favourite building? Perhaps a house, a church or a concert hall? Either somewhere with particular memories or somewhere you find beautiful, breath-taking?

I've got quite eclectic taste in architecture – I love the Victorian order of the Royal Albert Hall, the combination of grandeur and intimacy at Westminster Abbey (particularly if in one of the stalls in the Quire) and also the modern drama of the work of Frank Gehry (eg the Guggenheim in Bilbao)

You may know from the book 'The Church at the Crossroads' that Nikolaus Pevsner in "Buildings of England" (1971) describes the interior of St George's as "dull"! We would like to disagree! And so we are opening the building as part of the national Heritage Open Days this September.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 10am until 3pm we are inviting Poynton residents, and visitors from further afield to 'come and explore...'.

The church was gifted a Communion set by the Vernon family in 1806, which will be on display (usually only used at Christmas and Easter). Also, not normally on display is a copy of the 'Book of Homilies'. Members of our bell ringing team will be conducting tours of the tower (limited capacity).

Do let friends and family know about this special open day! Come along yourself to take some time to explore a building that tells the story of the good news of the gospel, as well as something of the history of Poynton.

In other news, we are really pleased to let you know that we have appointed a new Children's and Youth Minister! Carys Lesley will be joining us mid-September from St Alkmund's, Duffield, Derby. The next edition of Offshoot will provide an opportunity to learn more about her. Do be praying for her as she prepares to move and begin her new role.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

8 <sup>th</sup> August	Indienna Rose Good
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Mia Susanna Verity
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Tilly Grace Hadfield



### *These who have recently been married*

5 <sup>th</sup> August	Daniel Carter and Alison Leigh
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Stephen Gates and Nicola Williams
13 <sup>th</sup> August	Robert Murphy and Gemma Storey
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Adam Worthington and Sarah Angle

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

14 <sup>th</sup> July	Marian Kemp	aged 96 years
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Kathleen Cynthia Gardner	aged 93 years
10 <sup>th</sup> August	John Smith	aged 63 years
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Hilda Raven	aged 94 years
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Gordon Rigby Lees	aged 94 years

I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming number of cards, flowers, messages and support received following the death of Gordon recently. It has been such a comfort and a blessing to know that so many of our Church friends at St George's have been praying for my family during this time of mourning. We know that he is in God's presence now and at peace which is a great comfort. Thank you so much.

*Alice Lees*

**The Home Groups** of St George's and St Martin's restart in September after a summer break. These small groups that meet mostly weekly during term-time, are an important sub-structure of our churches. The members become friends, supporting and caring for each other and so feel included and loved as part of the large family of our churches.

The members have a time of study of The Word from the Bible and a time of prayer and fellowship. We can question our difficulties about our faith because we want to grow in and know more about what it means to be a Christian in our daily lives especially at this time. We aim to be Jesus-centred. We also have fun times together, sharing meals and other social activities.

If you are interested in joining a group you will be very welcome. Please contact any of the clergy or Susan Coleman.



### **Prayer Points**

Lord we pray for:

Our country with all its divisions and conflict.

Our police and emergency service on whom we all rely.

Our politicians both national and local, who must make decisions which are sometime difficult or unpopular.

Our young people who sometimes find themselves in new testing situations.

Lord, guide us we pray, to walk in your ways in unity, with respect and understanding for each other.

Lord, may we love our neighbour as ourselves, but love You above all else.



### Autumn Glory

How shall we welcome autumn, with its shorter days and greater darkness?  
Creation itself seems to retreat underground and human activity inside.  
Where shall we find the glory?

When the going is hard,  
whether at home or at work,  
it is not easy to see  
the glory in it.

The real worth of it  
is so easily hidden  
in the daily round  
of the necessary things  
we have to do.

**BUT** it is THERE TO BE DISCOVERED.

Christians are not called to be those  
who know it all ready.  
They ARE called to be those  
who set out in faith  
on a voyage of discovery.

They are travelling to discover  
the glory of God in creation,  
and the glory of Christ  
in each individual.

Enjoy the glory of summer,  
welcome the glory of autumn,  
Each day is the beginning  
of your new discovery in faith.



*Dudley Ratcliffe*

### Conference Venues

Where would these organisations or trades hold their annual conference?

1. Boat builder
2. Cattle farmers
3. Dog handlers
4. Lamp lighters
5. Deckhands
6. Footballers
7. Royal Mint staff
8. Dry cleaners
9. Bell ringers
10. Stone masons
11. Slimmers
12. Candle makers
13. Funeral Directors
14. Chimney sweeps
15. Booklovers



### Answers to Quiz

1. Hull	2. Cowes	3. Leeds	4. Brighton	5. Crewe	6. Rugby	7. Strling	8. Staines	9. Peel	10. Hammersmith	11. Nuneaton	12. Wick	13. Bury	14. Sutton	15. Reading
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## David Rutley and the 'Big Society'

Ten years ago David Rutley spoke to Churches Together in Poynton to explain his thoughts on the 'Big Society' and to answer some fairly probing questions. Does what he said then still resonate today?

It was encouraging to hear him speak because he gave the impression that he was more sympathetic to some of the issues concerning the erosion of Christian values in an increasingly secular society. He emphasised the importance writing to him, by post or email. The more correspondence he received, the greater the influence he could exert. Given this encouragement, Christians in Poynton need to respond in prayer and action.

Eugene H Peterson, who produced The Message version of the Bible, has written that Psalm 2 prepares us to pray in political as well as personal dimensions.

He compares Psalm 1, *"Blessed is the one .... Who meditates on His law day and night"* with Psalm 2, *"Why do .... The peoples plot in vain?"* The word translated 'meditates' in Psalm 1 and 'plot' in Psalm 2 is the same word in Hebrew. Peterson presents this challenge: *"Meditation involves passionate attentiveness; it is not mere daydreaming on your knees. Plotting against God is common enough in the world, but is there an equivalent 'plotting' in the church in consultation with God?"*

There are powerful and influential groups who are working hard to impose a secular agenda. Eugene Peterson offers the challenge *"Do we 'plot'/meditate' the world's salvation as energetically as the politicians (and others) do their strategies?"* Charles Williams says in his novel, All Hallows Eve, that a *"cruel purpose could outspeed a vague pity."* Let us make sure that we present more than a vague pity.

Please pray with 'passionate attentiveness.' Please express concern by writing to:

David Rutley MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London SW1A 0AA

Or email: [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)



**Congratulations to those who achieved the results they needed in the summer exams and good wishes especially to those moving up the school ladders - primary to secondary, sixth form studies, or further education or training.**

## St George's Wine Society

At last! It's a reality! We can resume our wine society where we left off. Now it is time to look forward to some good, fun meetings and sample wines we have not had before. Our first meeting is on Friday 24 September 2021 at 7.45 for 8pm in St George's Hall. The title is 'Val's Staycation Visits' and will feature English Wines. We meet on the fourth Friday of each month and our scheduled talks are listed below



Friday 24 September	English Wines with Val Vibrans
Friday 22 October	There's more to Spain than Rioja with David Holt
Friday 26 November	Wines for Christmas with Laithwaites Wines of Alderley Edge

We are always keen to welcome new members so if you would like to come and for more information contact Val Vibrans on 875881. You will enjoy meeting others and sampling wines. We look forward to seeing you.

Val

**Golden Age** An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. A month later he went back to the doctor and the doctor said "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again". The gentleman replied "Oh, I haven't told the family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

*From Ivor Rees Golden Age Collection - supplied by Jack Roberts*

## Ancient Times

The next time you wash your hands under a running tap, just spare a thought for your old ancestors who had no such luxury.

In the 1500's it was not unusual for young children to be sewn into their underwear at the beginning of winter. Obviously suitable toilet arrangements were catered for. These would not be undone until late May when the weather was warmer. The family would then have their yearly bath. Water drawn from the well would be heated on a cauldron and bathing was done by strict hierarchy. First would be the man of the house, followed by the sons, then mother, daughters and finally down to the baby. Obviously when the baby got in, the water was fairly murky, and it was not unusual for the baby to disappear under the water. Hence the saying **"Don't throw the baby out with the bath water"**.

Having had their annual bath at the end of May brides frequently got married in early June as they were quite fragrant then. But just in case they carried a bunch of heavily scented flowers in front of them—the bouquet. This is still practised of course, but not for the same reason.

*Fred Fletcher*

My neighbour was working in his garden when he was startled by a car that crashed through his hedge and ended up in his front lawn. He rushed to help an elderly lady driver out of the car and sat her down on a garden chair. He said with concern, 'you appear quite elderly to be driving.' 'Well, yes I am,' she replied proudly. 'I'll be 97 next month, and I am now old enough that I don't even need a driver's licence anymore.' He asked, 'What makes you think so?' She replied 'The last time I went to the doctor, he examined me and asked if I had a driver's licence. I told him yes and handed it to him. He took the scissors out of the drawer, cut the licence into pieces and threw them in the waste basket, saying 'you don't need this anymore.' 'So I thanked him and left!'

## A Cautionary Tale (to nursery rhyme tunes)

\*\* Poynton Village has a Church EI, EI, O\*  
and on its roof there was some lead EI, EI, O\*

Then

\*\*\*Thieves and robbers came out to prey  
The moon didn't shine as bright as day  
Up with the ladder, just over the wall  
"A bit of this lead will help us all."

And

With a bit from here  
And a bit from there EI, EI, O\*  
The vestry roof was very soon bare EI, EI, O\*

So

With a phone call here  
and an email there EI, EI, O\*  
the matter was settled  
(with every care) by the EI, EI, O\*

But

With church lead theft occurring almost on a daily basis throughout the country the E.I.O. has resolved to 'cap' claims, but the vestry roof was made good for the immediate future.

If you are concerned about the future of our parish church, why not consider becoming a Friend of St George's; details from the Church Office.

\* Ecclesiastical Insurance (Office)

\*\* Tune 1 Old MacDonald

\*\*\* Tune 2 Boys and girls come out to play

## My Memory

I'm feeling rather sad today as I think I've lost my brain,  
I'm sure I had it yesterday when I went out in the rain.  
I met a friend, but don't know who, and stood and had a chat,  
Then went and had a coffee, but I can't recall where at.

Now when my brain goes walkabout, I know it's not gone far,  
But I've looked in kitchen, lounge and loo, and even in the car,  
I met a lady on the stairs and told her of my plight,  
And then she said, "Well, mine's the same. It's also out of sight!

At this we had to laugh, as what else can you do  
But keep a sense of humour, as that will see you through  
Those sticky moments in the day when your brain gives you a test,  
Which rather leaves you all alone when it shuts down for a rest.

But when your brain plays hide and seek and you can't recall a fact  
Of something hidden deep inside, it's not your brain you lack,  
It takes a while to filter through the clutter of the years  
But don't lose heart, the answers there, so put away your fears.

Our brains are very complex, or so the experts say,  
And that is why they need a rest at odd times in the day.  
They've been around for quite a while, and now are getting worn  
And need some gentle TLC to get back to their norm.

So look on brains as just old friends, that need a bit of care  
And when you can't remember, just think, that fact **is** there  
It's hiding in a memory, sometime in years gone past  
And when it pops up you can say, "Oh there you are. At last!"



Monica Hughes

Ed.

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Kings 1:5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David

He's having a big party to celebrate right now!



I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



## 25<sup>th</sup> September St Ceolfrith (d 716) - baking and Bibles

Ceolfrith is a good patron saint for anyone who has studied hard for their profession, is strong in the face of tragedy, and who can also offer some homely care to others in need.

This well-loved abbot of Wearmouth and Jarrow came from a noble Northumbrian family, and was ordained at Ripon when he was just 27. He travelled to Canterbury and Icanho (in East Anglia) where he studied ecclesiastical and monastic practices. But back at Ripon the monks soon came to appreciate him for another good reason: Ceolfrith was an outstanding cook. They asked him to be the monastery's baker, and he agreed.

In time Ceolfrith was moved on to Wearmouth, and then in 682, when the monastery at nearby Jarrow was founded, Ceolfrith became abbot. It was here that disaster struck, when a plague killed all of the monks who could sing or read. Only Ceolfrith and the boy Bede were left alive. It would have been so easy to flee that empty house of death, but instead, Ceolfrith and the young Bede faithfully stayed on, because they believed God had called them to be there. Soon Jarrow prospered once more, and by 689 Ceolfrith was made abbot of both Wearmouth and Jarrow.

Ceolfrith seems to have been a kindly and energetic leader. During his rule 600 monks joined the monastery, the library was doubled, and the endowments increased. But Ceolfrith's biggest legacy to history came when he commissioned from his own scriptoria three Pandects (complete Bibles in single volumes) in uncial script. One still survives today, as the Codex Amiatinus, an enormous volume in the Bibiloteca Laurenziana in Florence. It is the oldest surviving complete Latin Bible in one volume.

A kindly baking abbot who also happened to leave us the earliest complete Latin Bible – not a bad combination of skills!

Parish Pump

**23<sup>rd</sup> September - When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night** is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.