



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

Welcome

Summer 2022




St Martin's
Higher Poynton

Poynton Parish Church


St George's
Poynton

A message from Rev Christine

Dear friends,

Summer is here and we can enjoy the long summer evenings and a change of seasons. Depending on when you read this you may be thinking that the weather isn't very summery! Indeed I am wearing a sweater at the moment! However, this sweater has a large star on the front which reminded me of the passage in Philippians that we studied recently where those of us in Christ are to be blameless and pure, shining like stars in a dark sky. In this passage from Philippians chapter 2 we are reminded that we are not to grumble because it can be a barrier to becoming bright stars. Weather wise God has really answered our prayers for two very important events in the previous weeks. The 'churches together' event of 'Love Poynton' and 'Festival Manchester' had clear fine weather.

Love Poynton was held with all the different churches in Poynton contributing to this event and showing that we are all united in Christ Jesus even if we have different denominations and styles of worship. I believe that this is important for those who don't yet belong to one of our churches to know that we all love Jesus and are fellow Christians. It was very well attended and there were lots of activities for everyone to engage with, including many interesting craft activities. On the Saturday evening a youth event was held, and 70 Bibles were given to interested people. On Sunday afternoon a joint Christian outdoor service took place. Festival Manchester was a much bigger event held at Wythenshawe Park and attended by thousands over last weekend. The gospel message was communicated in word and song and thousands of people of all ages responded. We need to pray that those who initially responded to God's message of salvation will join churches and become followers of Jesus.

Summer and holidays are often when we have more a time to reflect upon our lives and look to God for his power to make us more spiritually mature in Christ. In a recent sermon I used the analogy of physically working out to get a better physique, (if only) and spiritually working out by reading God's word, reflecting on its meaning for our lives, prayer and fellowship to become more Christlike. As I read a passage from Hosea this morning, it reminded me that as we grow more materially rich we are in danger of forgetting God and yet when we turn to him He is faithful and forgives us and pours out His blessings. I hope we can all enjoy time alone with God during our summertime. There are also fun events so that we can enjoy fellowship with one another. These include a picnic lunch after the morning service on the 21st August; an evening of board games on Friday 12th August; a quiz with tea and cake on Tuesday afternoon 23rd August; Holiday club for primary age children from 30th August to Friday 2nd September and a BBQ after the morning service on Sunday 4th September. Hope to see you there.

I hope and pray that you will find summer a time of refreshing, drawing closer to God, meeting with others and enjoying some sunshine too.

With love in Christ,

Christine - Associate Minister



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

These who have recently had their wedding blessed:

11th June Ashley Giddings and Marina Angelove

25th June June Matthew and Alice Hollingsworth

The family and friends of those who have recently died:

31st May Frank Jones aged 86

9th June Gillian Crawford aged 73

17th June Ann Kathleen Roberts aged 79

29th June Sylvia Milburn aged 80

11th July Jean (Jeannie) Bratton aged 73

3rd August Violet Grice aged 87



Revelations

Reveal in us your glory
Stir in us your power
Renew in us your faith
Show in us your way
Open in us your love
Strengthen in us your hope
Work in us your resurrection
Abide in us yourself.



David Adam 'Tides and Seasons'

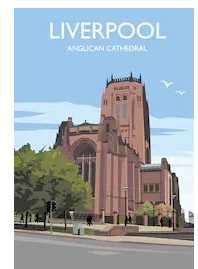
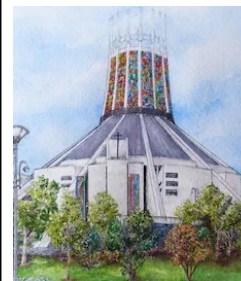
Friends of St George's

**Coach trip to Liverpool
Tuesday 4th October 2022**

Tickets £25 available from the Church Office - 879277

or

Committee Members



New Curate

Hello!

I've been asked to say something about myself, so here goes...

I arrived as your new curate in mid-May – as you may have seen in the last edition of Offshoot.

Before I say anything else, I would like to thank you all for making me – and my husband Jim – feel so welcome here. It has been good getting to know so many of you, although I still have a long way to go learning names and faces.

I grew up in Manchester, and then returned there after my physics degree. I then moved, with Jim and our elder daughter, to Cheadle where we still live. Our younger daughter was born a year later.

I worked in the NHS as a medical physicist, in a specialty called Nuclear Medicine, which uses radioactive materials for scans and treatments. My roles included doing the science that went into making sure that the scans produced the right results, and making sure that everybody was working safely.

I was brought up in a Christian home, and have always been involved in church life in various ways. I became a Reader in 2008, and then in 2019 I started two years of ordination training, studying part time whilst still working in the NHS. In July last year I stopped working as a physicist, and was ordained and started as a curate in Wilmslow. Various changes in Wilmslow meant it was time for a move, and I am delighted to have come to join you in Poynton. I look forward to worshipping and working with you over the next couple of years.



Jennie Prince

Boys and Girls Come Out to Play

Normally the Church choir gathers every Thursday evening to practise and prepare for the coming Sunday service. However, in August, although we do gather, we have a more relaxed time with a varied programme.

With two or three Thursdays still to come, we began with a “Games in the Garden” evening (with suitable refreshments of course!).

During the last few years we have visited several local gardens, open as part of the National Gardens Scheme, and this year's choice was especially beautiful. A large garden with so many different areas and attractions, just down the road in Mottram St Andrews, it included many different areas, both cultivated and wild areas, three ponds, a very productive kitchen garden, some interesting pieces of sculpture, and finally a very welcome cup of tea and choice of home made cakes. What more could we have asked! It was even a fine English evening and we were delighted to know that our contribution would support so many good causes. Our hosts had raised thousands of pounds towards work such as Macmillan and Cancer research, bodies among the many supported by NGS schemes each year.

Still to come we have a walk (perhaps too hot as I write so maybe just straight to the Miner's Arms!), a beetle drive, a trip to Mellor Parish Church and a shared supper.



New members always welcome to the choir; why would you not join us? (As long as you can sing a bit I suppose!!)

Susan Warrington

Return of the Girl Guides

Like everything over the last 2 years, Girl Guiding has unfortunately been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, even that hasn't gotten in the way of Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger units across the country from finding their own ways to be together and get things done!



I have been involved with 1st Poynton Brownies at St George's Church since I started there aged 7. Almost 11 years on I'm still helping as a Young Leader and have experienced first-hand the immense impact that the pandemic has had on the Brownies. From adapting activities to be 'Zoom' friendly to struggling with dodgy internet connection, the first months were not easy, and it seems bizarre to think that this time last year we were standing outside in all weathers, asking the Brownies to stand in hula hoops to make sure they kept two metres apart.



Thankfully, for most of us, it now feels like we're getting out of the other side of 'Corona-times', and this is the same in Guiding. The Brownies have coped exceptionally well with the transition to the 'new normal'. Since September the Brownies have performed at St George's Christmas carol service, had a jelly-baby themed evening, and had a walk around Poynton with the CCSOs (ending at the chip shop - of course!). There have also been several girls who have achieved their Brownie Gold Award, the highest honour a Brownie can receive.

As well as this, in September I started volunteering at 2nd Poynton Rainbows, who meet at Poynton Methodist Church. Working with younger girls presented new challenges, but nothing that couldn't be overcome! A recent highlight was going to a forest school where all the girls got to explore the woods and toast marshmallows.



One of the things that stands out to me whilst working with these young girls is their abundant optimism. No matter how we meet or what we do, the girls arrive with smiles on their faces, full of excitement to start the meeting. It is an honour to feel that I've played even the smallest part in these girls' lives and achievements, which come in all shapes and forms. The pride of seeing a girl grow in confidence is equal to, if not better than, seeing them receive the badges they have earned.

Despite the fact I am supposed to be a leader to them, in some cases it feels like they have been a greater help to me! In a year when I am coping with the stress of A-Levels and university applications, Brownie and Rainbow meetings have provided a welcome escape. Their positivity and happiness allow me to see the world from an entirely different, much brighter, perspective. I believe that the resilience of Girl Guiding and its youngest members during this time of global hardship serves as a brilliant reminder of the hope awaiting us all, which may be just around the corner.

Olivia Buckle



Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers East Cheshire Branch

In June the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers East Cheshire Branch held their first Six-Bell striking competition since 2018, at St. Mary's Church Nether Alderley.

The competition has been missing for a few years, for various reasons, including Covid.

It is held to promote better bell striking, and I am delighted to say that the team from St. George's Poynton won the call changes trophy.

Here is our tower Captain David Friend receiving the trophy from the Bishop of Stockport, the Right Reverend Sam Corley.

If you would like to see how our bells are rung you are welcome to visit the tower during practise time on Friday evenings (8.00pm - 9.30pm). There are rare occasions when we do not practice - if you would like to visit please check with our secretary, Rosemary Spencer, via peterose3@googlemail.com You never know, you might like it enough to give it a go and join our bellringing family.

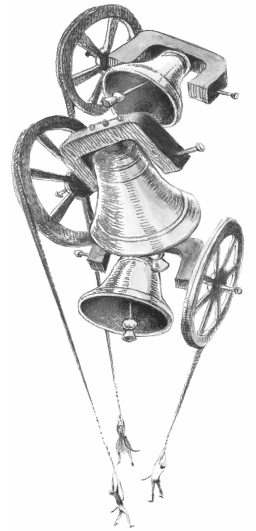
Tower News

Things have returned to normal in the tower - practices on Friday and ringing for services and other occasions. On Saturday 11th June the East Cheshire Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (to which we are affiliated) held its annual striking contest at St Mary, Nether Alderley. Seven teams entered and each rang for about 6 minutes, during which an independent judge (from Keele in Staffordshire) listened with a very critical ear for hesitations or clashes. The team with the least number of 'faults' wins the contest. There are two shields to be competed for: a call change section and a method ringing section (slightly more difficult). To our delight Poynton won the call change section (again!) and now hold the Sid Hough Memorial Trophy for the next 12 months.

The picture (taken by Kevin Bell) shows Bishop Sam presenting the trophy to our Tower Captain David Friend. The Bishop is a ringer and took the opportunity to have a ring on the bells during the afternoon.

You may be wondering what has gone wrong with our church clock? The answer is - the pendulum has broken! This is a specialist repair job and we hope it will be returned in the next few weeks. In the meantime our Steeple Keeper Phil has set the hands to 12 o'clock.

Potential recruits are always welcome to come and see what happens on a Friday night - contact our Secretary Rosemary via our website: www.poyntonbells.net



Peter Dyson

Date for Your Diary

Save the date - Friday, 7th October 10.00 am - 12 noon

Where - the Church Hall

Why - it's the Marie Curie Coffee morning.



Chris and Mike Bird have run this event successfully for many years. Chris asked if I would take over this coffee morning last October, which I gladly agreed to do. The format will be the same i.e. raffle, bring and buy and coffee, tea, cake and biscuits. If you have any prizes for raffle bring and buy, I am usually at the church hall on a Wednesday morning helping at Bright Stars from 9 am—10.45 am or alternatively you could ring me on 876718 and I will collect (I live at 33 Milton Drive). Donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated for the event.

Carol Armitage



Thank you, Catherine & MAPS 13.07.2022

Choir
People
Conductor
Accompanist
Close harmony, friendship, togetherness.
Singing filling the air in unison.
Tone, pitch, timbre
Sound layers
Volume
Song.
Choir
gathers
performance
ready to sing.
Sopranos, altos, tenors and low bass.
Notes dance, fly, hover, scatter, rise and fall -
as manuscript's
notation
dictates
parts.
Like
oceans-
waves that rise
trough, break and fall.
Rolling sound waves of harmonious song
Scaling the octaves in different keys
rainbow splashes,
of colour,
sparkling -
song.

Rosanne Alcraft

An Afternoon Tea for the Afternoon Chat and Tea groups and their guests



How good it was to be invited to a lovely afternoon tea which took place in our relatively cool, well-ventilated church hall on a beautiful, warm August afternoon. The four Afternoon Chat and Tea groups had come together, as they do once a year, inviting guests, to listen to a talk by Matthew, our vicar, which was then followed by an excellent tea of sandwiches, scones and cakes.

Matthew began by showing photos from his youth in south Wales and

subsequent progress, developing his musical talents on the staff of All Souls, Langham Place, where he first started to preach, influenced by John Stott, who was still at All Souls at that time. He was encouraged to deepen his understanding of the Christian faith by doing a degree at the London School of Theology and, when recommended for training, he was prepared for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. In the course of Matthew's talk, we were treated to a number of musical excerpts and videos which illustrated his wide-ranging musical tastes and talents. After serving a curacy in Luton, Matthew spent seven years at a church in Farnborough, Hampshire, before coming to Poynton just as lock-down hit, which of course closed our church to in-person worship. This was a particularly strange and difficult time to begin a new ministry. Now, thanks to the easing of restrictions, invitations to the vicarage and the activities we are now able to run, we are gradually getting to know Matthew and Kate better, and they us.

Matthew left us with a question to discuss at our tables. We were asked who were the people and what events had influenced us on our Christian journey. There was a lovely, relaxed atmosphere. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed it. Many thanks to Margaret and her team for making such a pleasant afternoon possible.

Colin and Stephanie Rookwood

Women's Event

Sunday, 25th June saw more than a dozen ladies sitting in a circle in Val Vibrans' lovely garden, thoroughly enjoying sharing authors and titles (but not too much of the plot) with favourite books.

A thoroughly English way to spend a (relatively) fine summer afternoon, especially as tea and cake were part of the scene!

Sadly, I don't believe anyone took a photograph, but a list of suggested 'good reads' is available from Deborah Myers on email.



Susan Warrington

Noah

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

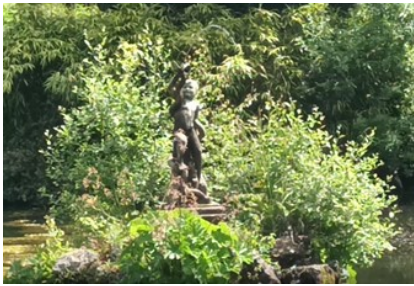
'A Bucket of Surprises' compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbbe

A Perfect Tuesday

Tuesday, 14th June and 45 eager people were gathered outside Wetherspoons to clamber on a coach for a trip to Thornbridge Hall and Bakewell. 9.30am we set off and Paul, our driver, took us sedately through the traffic in High Lane and Disley before we started to climb up through the beautiful views of the Peak District National Park.



Our first destination of the day was Thornbridge Hall. After an hour or so on the coach, most of us headed to the café for a brew in the sunshine before heading off to explore the extensive gardens. Designed in the 1890s to create a vision of “a thousand shades of green”, the gardens were first opened to the public in the 1930s. There was plenty to see: a kitchen garden area, walks through the trees, across babbling brooks to the Koi Lake where the challenge of counting the number of Koi was posted on a signpost! No, we weren’t tempted! We enjoyed sitting on a bench admiring the views instead and trying to count all the different greens to be seen!



Overlooking the lake stood the imposing Thornbridge Hall although this wasn’t part of our trip today. Meandering through more paths we came across the more formal Italian Garden, with box hedges of yew, statues and another small fountain in the middle. A final stroll up to the Orangery and it was back to the coach and onto Bakewell.



Parking up near the river, our time here was our own. Some people headed to find somewhere to eat in the town centre, others had picnics. Mum and I went straight into the Co-op, bought some food for a picnic and headed back to the river where we were able to find a seat watching the antics of the ducks on the river as we ate our lunch. A mooch around the shops found us at The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop and of course we had to go in and buy a traditional Bakewell pudding!! It would be rude not to do so! More sitting by the river before a final cup of tea at The Woodyard where the flowers on the fences were equally impressive, and we were back on the coach, several people clutching bags from various shops, for our trip home via the impressive Monsal Heights! Thank you to everyone from the Friends team for organising a lovely day out, enhanced, it has to be said, by the glorious weather! A perfect way to spend a Tuesday!



Catherine Silman

Last of the Summer Wine

We have had some good wine society tastings. In May we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with wines from Commonwealth Countries. We toasted Her Majesty with an English sparkling wine. The white wines came from India and Canada; a rose from Australia and the red wines were from South Africa and New Zealand. We served with the wines a coronation chicken which had been a new dish from the Coronation in 1953 together with a lovely rice salad with pomegranates made by Scott Surtees and followed by trifle. A very pleasant evening was had by about 47 people.

Our June meeting was a summer garden party in Val's Garden and the weather behaved itself, until right at the end that is! We served a rose from Yarunga Field Australia, a sauvignon blanc from Chile and a red from the Duoro Valley, Portugal. We had finger food and nibbles. About 40 people came; the large circle which gathered on the lawn meant conversation flowed!

Our July meeting was a BBQ at the Church Hall. We had hoped to have it outside but the cool unsettled weather meant we were in the hall (all that is except for Dave McClelland – the master BBQ organiser! and cooked chicken, sausages and burgers). Steve Matthews was the sommelier and we had a Torrontes from Argentina, a Pecorino from Italy, a rose from Provence and two red – one Valpolicella from Italy and a Lisboa 6 from Portugal. In all about 38 people had a very enjoyable evening.

If you feel you would like to come to the tastings, we meet on the fourth Friday of the month; call Val or Pat Robbie for further information. The evening is a way of meeting other people and comes highly recommended!



Val Vibrans

Weeds

Some people are flower lovers.

I'm a weed lover.

Weeds don't need planting in well-drained soil;

They don't ask for fertilizer or bits of rag to scare

away the birds.

They come without invitation

And they don't take the hint
when you want them to go.

Weeds are nobody's guests:

More like squatters.



Norman Nicholson

Flowers are for wrapping in cellophane

to present a bouquet;

Flowers are for prize arrangements in vases and

silver tea-pots;

Flowers are for plaiting into funeral wreaths.

You can keep your flowers.

Give me weeds.



To all older children expecting exam results -

We wish you every success.

The most proud moment
in a student's life is when



you know nothing in an exam and
teacher says, "hide your answer sheet,
the boy behind you is copying you"