

The Magazine * June 2011



s a i n t p a u l ' s
s t a l y b r i d g e

Mission Statement

at Saint Paul's we seek to

Develop our faith through worship, prayer and learning.

Grow together in love and service

Share God's love with the wider community

Welcome others into the church family.

find us on the web at: <http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/>

Sunday Services at Saint Paul's

Sunday	08:00 am	10:30 am	06:30 pm
June 5	Holy Communion: HC2	Parade Service	Holy Communion and Healing Service
June 12	Holy Communion: HC2	Holy Communion: HCI	no service
June 19	Holy Communion: HC2	Morning Prayer: MP:CW	no service
June 26	Holy Communion: HC2	Holy Communion: HCI	no service

HCI Holy Communion : *Common Worship* Order 1 (contemporary)

HC2 Holy Communion : *Common Worship* Order 2 (traditional)

MP:CW Morning Prayer : *Common Worship*

MP:BCP Morning Prayer : *Book of Common Prayer*

EP:BCP Evening Prayer : *Book of Common Prayer*

10:30

Sunday School (begins in church)

from the **vicarage**

For the first time in a number of years we will be visited by the Bishop of Chester, who will be presiding at our **Confirmation Service** on *Tuesday 7th June (the service starts at 7.30 pm)*. We will have to be on our best behaviour! We have twelve candidates who, by the time you read this letter, will have been prepared for their Confirmations. Please pray for them; those committing themselves to a life in Christ at this service are as follows:

William Edward Cave

Freya Clark

Robert James Clark

Lillie Darby

Doreen Dickinson

Angela Evans

Siobhan Goudy

Thomas Leech

Stephanie Morris

Lauren Parkinson

Grace Rodgers

Jessica Ross

Heather Oxley

Chloe Jade Weaver

The summer is a time when church life slows up a little, although we do have our **Summer Fair** on *Saturday 18th June*. This gives us the opportunity to share more fellowship together; we have been able to include two new events in our church calendar.

The first is a **Church Picnic** with St. Paul's School after our Parade Service on *3rd July*. The service will be slightly shortened, so we can start at 11.30 am, thus allowing time for recovery before the new **Rose Queen's institution service** later that day at 3.00 p.m. Both myself and *Janet Hand*, the Headteacher of the school, are trying to improve the links between church and school. This should be a fun day, with our Sunday School Leaders preparing activities for the children from both Sunday School and School.

The second is a **Church Outing** (a term you don't hear much nowadays) the following week-*10 July* - to *Dovestones*. We will be having a leisurely walk around the reservoir, starting at 2.00 pm, although it is hoped as many people as possible will be able to meet at 1.30 pm to eat 'butties' (or whatever takes your fancy) before the walk.

Jesus stressed the importance of fellowship, through the time he shared with his disciples. I hope you will be able to join us on one or more of these events.



Magazine Plus

From time to time you will see something like this at the end of an article:

MAGAZINE+ use the links on our website to read the full article.
<http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/>

We are adding a section to the

website where you will find links to websites which give more information on topics covered by articles in the **Magazine**. Just visit the website and look for the link to the **Magazine** page in the menu on the left.

*As well as links to other resources we will be putting back copies of the **Magazine** on the site in .pdf format at the end of each month.*

This time-honoured custom was observed as usual on Whit-Friday morning. The scholars mustered in good numbers, after singing a couple

Whit Friday 1906 at Saint Paul's

of hymns at the Vicarage proceeded on their march in good time. The route taken was the usual one and there was no departure from custom of past years. Perhaps this is not altogether satisfactory from a certain point of view for a salutary change in some directions would be a decided improvement.

We passed several Church Schools in procession through the town and

were highly gratified to note the numerical strength of each contingent. St Paul's procession numbered 971 as they entered the gates of West Hill, and several laggards joined later on.

Miss Harrison and Mrs Dugdale dispensed liberal hospitality as in past years. Long may they continue to do so on this annual occasion is our sincere wish. After buns and coffee in the School the scholars went to Copley Meadow, and spent the afternoon and evening in sports and games. A good band played sweet selections of music throughout the afternoon in the field, and when the sun was setting many weary children retired home, tired but very happy, for their "Whit-Friday Walk" had been a pleasant and enjoyable one.

PCC Report June 2011

This was the first meeting of the new PCC; we welcomed new PCC members – *Alison Monks, Keith-Dawson and Jacintha Manchester*, returning to PCC duties after a break, and *Paul and Alison Smith and David Bate*, first time PCC members.

PCC officers were all re-elected – *Gareth Cross* (Treasurer), *Steve Parkin* (Development Fund Treasurer), *Linda Hernon* (Secretary), *Hilary Haigh* and *Helen Hobday* (Deputy Wardens), *Eileen Frith* (Electoral Role Officer), *Heidi Booth* (Gift Aid Officer). In addition, *Gareth Cross, Helen Hobday and Jacintha Manchester* agreed to be our Synod representatives.

Money issues, unfortunately – we don't seem to be able to get away from them, were important. *Gareth* emphasised that the church needs £1,700 per week to just keep ticking over; at present we are £200 per week short of this amount. As there are now 207 on the electoral role, if everyone increased their giving by £1 per week the shortfall would be solved! As the restoration is nearing

completion (in fact, by the time you read this article, it should be completed, with the organ back in action) we return the Restoration Fund to its original title, the Development Fund, and hope that people will continue to support our ongoing efforts to im-

prove the state and facilities of the church. All Restoration Envelope contributors will receive a note in their envelopes that the fund will be reverting to its original title.

Outreach and spiritual growth issues focussed around baptisms and confirmations. On Tuesday 7th June (7.30 p.m.) the *Bishop of Chester* will be presiding over our annual confirmation service, this year held in *St. Paul's Church*. We have 14 candidates for confirmation and hope as many of you will be able to attend and support them in this service, which is for the entire church family (not just the candidates and their families).

In our March and April baptism services we had 7 and 8 candidates respectively. We have therefore decided to have two services per month (2 x 4 in May). It is exciting that so many want to be initiated into the church family through either baptism or confirmation, we now have a responsibility to try and nurture them in their faith.

Worship focussed on our Sunday evening services, where numbers attending remain low. We will try to address this issue, initially looking at different types of service, for which there may be a demand, and review our present service schedule in the autumn.

Charity work focussed on the meeting at the Vicarage on 24th. May to discuss a joint local charity venture with St. James', Millbrook, and All Saints, Micklehurst.

An application for the vacant choirmaster/ organist post will be considered, with a meeting with the candidate arranged for 16th. May. By the time you read this article we will have more details on both these issues.

And finally, a plug for the Summer Fair, which has been re-arranged for Saturday 18th. June (coffee morning on the 11th. June is therefore cancelled).

The next PCC meeting will be on Wednesday 13th. July.

God is back: how the global rise of faith is changing the world, by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge

A steady stream of bestselling books claim that religion is in a state of terminal decline. In this book, two journalists from The Economist, challenge this view. Instead of being in decline, religion in most parts of the world is alive and well and actually growing.

Those who predict the end of religion think that the western European experience - where religion is actively practised by only a minority - is typical. However, this book suggests that rather than being the norm, Europe is an exception to what is happening throughout most of the world.

In fact, rather than being a victim of the march of science, technology and modernity, religion has often embraced

them and used them to its benefit. In particular, the American experience, where there has never been an established religion, and where religion operates in an atmosphere of both choice and competition has offered a template which has been exported to many parts of the world. So, the world's largest Christian church building is not in America or Europe, but in South Korea where 253000 attend the *Yoida Full Gospel*

Church in Seoul over the average weekend.

Missionaries from undenominational megachurches in the USA have planted churches in many parts of South America, Africa and the Far East. It is an American model of religion which is spreading round the world; where religion and modernity go hand in hand.

The book gives some impressive statistics on growth: in 1900 there were 10 million Christians in Africa, by 2009 this had grown to 400 million. Even more startling is the authors' claim that by 2050 China will be the country with both the largest Muslim population and the largest Christian population. The general pattern of growth has meant that the shift in the balance of power in Christianity is moving south - something with implications for the Anglican Communion.

If the American model of Christianity has proved to be both portable and adaptable, it is the global dominance of America politically,

economically and in the media and cyberworld which has brought a reaction in parts of the world where people feel disempowered. Their frustration has led them to turn to religiously conservative and anti-western movements.

This well-researched and readable account shows that an appreciation of the role religion plays is essential if we are to understand the world we live in. *Micklethwait* and *Wooldridge* do not say whether the survival or growth of religion is a good thing or not. That is not their aim. Rather, they are describing the phenomenon of religion. For those of us for whom religion is a significant part of our lives, we can recognise that we are part of a bigger picture, not one which is just a harmless hobby for Sunday mornings. God is back - for better or worse.

*John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge: **God is back: how the global rise of faith is changing the world.** Penguin. 2010.*

George Maddock

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. *Karl Barth*

Rebecca Stone writes about preparing to attend the **22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden**

Thanks to everyone who has supported me so that I and other young people from **Tame Valley District Scouts** can attend the **22nd World Scout Jamboree** in Sweden in July 2011. As I write this - on 4 May - there is 80 days to go to the Jamboree!!

So far we have had many training weekends and events to prepare us for going on the Jamboree, and to get to know each other. The first few camps were held at Linnet Clough Scout camp, and then we had one in October 2010 at Dunham Massey. These gave us the opportunity to work on team building skills and get to know the other members of the unit. Then in February 2011 we

went to York for the weekend which was to prepare us for moving around busy public areas; so we met in Manchester and the entire unit got the train to York together. Also in March 2011 there was a training camp at Ashworth Valley Scout site which was an opportunity for us to buy and make meals for 40 people on a budget and find out more about what will be happening on the Home Hospitality part of the Jamboree. On the 7th May 2011 there is to be a day where all of our kit will get issued for the trip, e.g. rucksack/hold all, extra uniform, Jacket personalized for UK Contingent, water bottle, woggle etc.

Also I would like to congratulate Matthew Senior (a member of Glossop Explorer Unit) who has accepted a cancellation in the last few weeks and will be going to the World Jamboree as well.



2011

SWEDEN

Greater Manchester East

There is a

COFFEE MORNING

at **Stalybridge Methodist Church**

Saturday 11 June

10:30—1

in aid of the Tame Valley Scouts Jamboree Fund



He composes all his sermons on his iPone- he uses something called Predictable Text

Team Jean's Gems

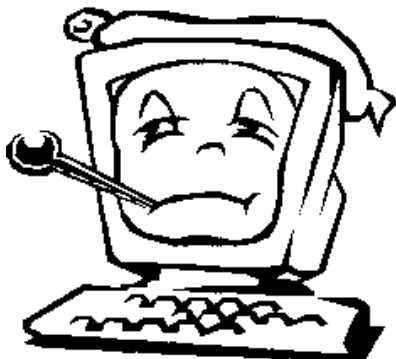
Jean Burke's daughter and friends have now completed their trek along the Grand Canyon. If you wish to donate to Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of Jean, please see Ruth Richardson in the Lounge after morning service. Thank you for your support.

Sunday Morning Group's Lent Project 2011

During Lent this year, instead of giving up sweets, our *Sunday Morning Group* decided to do something different. We made money boxes into which the children put their own money. This money was then used to buy books for children in the villages of Laos. **Big Brother Mouse** is a Lao-based, Lao-owned project started in 2006, publishing "books that make literacy fun!" Now they are also publishing books that provide older readers with access to the information, ideas, and pleasure something people in many countries take for granted. Books are sold to tourists who then take them with them when they go on a trek to villages which are off the beaten track. They give the books to children who do not own or have access to books.

When the children's money boxes were emptied, we had collected £15.17 and this was sent to someone from England who is at present in Laos and who will buy books and give them to children who he meets on his travels.

MAGAZINE+ use the links on our website to find out more about *Big Brother Mouse*. <http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/>



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June's

Magazine

Items for the next edition of **The Magazine** should be received by
19 June 2011.

Please post them in the box in the
church entrance or give them
to George Maddock.

You can also email items to:

stpaulsweb@gmaddock.plus.com

Contributions to **The Magazine** are
always welcome. Their use in whole or
in part is at the discretion of the Editor.

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My sister-in-law, Victoria Littler died at the end of last year of ovarian cancer. Vicky was 40 years old, she was diagnosed in April 2011 and died in November 2011. Vicky leaves behind my brother Jason, my nephew Jack (5) and my niece Katie (12). Last year we also lost our good friend Cpl Harvey Holmes aged 22 in May 2011 who was killed in Afghanistan. It made me realise how precious life is and every moment is to be “lived”.

What am I doing, this really isn't one of my better ideas

Jan Stone describes her charity parachute jump

I decided for my 40th Birthday this year I would do a charity tandem parachute jump and ask for sponsors instead of presents. My brother Jason also wanted to say “thank you” to Wigan and Leigh Hospice for the way they cared for not only Vicky but for all our family, so he decided to jump too and we joined forces to raise money for the Hospice.

It seemed a good idea when I booked the jump back in January for 16th April 2011. I celebrated my birthday in March and the sponsors came rolling in and it became real, I really was going to jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane! At this point I was starting to question my sanity but with my friends and family behind me I did actually go ahead with the jump.

Jason and I arrived at the Parachute Centre at 8.00 am for the training. Basically the instructions were don't do anything silly and you will be fine. We had to lie on the floor and practice our “arch” position, we got “kitted” out with our flying suit, hats, goggles, gloves and harness. We just then waited for the weather.

At 10.00 am we got the call that we were ready to go. The first obstacle for me was getting in the plane which wasn't easy for me with my short legs but I managed it on the second attempt. Going up in the plane I felt really excited and a bit nervous. However, when they opened the door of the plane I

thought “What am I doing, this really isn't one of my better ideas”. Jason went out first which made me scream, it didn't seem right to see my brother falling out of plane! It also meant it was my turn next!! Sitting on the edge of the door with feet hooked under the plane and head back we were off – WOW what a wonderful feeling. A bit of a shock to the system, it seemed really fast and very cold but somehow quite peaceful, it's very difficult to describe, it was awesome. The parachute was deployed and we were floating, which should have been the easy bit. Not for me though – I felt very sick – I didn't know I suffered from air sickness! (I do now!) When I landed my brother was absolutely elated and had loved every minute, I was grey!!

I am glad I have done the charity jump it is an experience I will never forget and it was for such a good cause close to mine and Jason's heart. Jason and I managed to raise about £1,500 so far (it goes up every day!!) for such a worthy cause. If you would like to donate my web page is

www.justgiving.com/Janine-Stone.

As a family we try to be really positive hence, the fundraising and we encourage the children to talk about mum and share their memories with us.

Another amazingly strong family are our friends the *Holmes* family who lost *Harvey* a year ago. *Harvey* was an inspirational and caring young man. His family and friends have been an inspiration to us all. *Harvey's* family have set up the **Cpl Harvey Holmes Foundation** to help raise funds to support the loved ones of lost and injured soldiers. To help support the cause, call 0161 366 1838 for details.

I am so proud of both families being so strong and coping so well in such difficult circumstances.

It really makes you look at what it is important in life. Material things are irrelevant, however, time is the most precious thing in life. Time doesn't cost you money but means a great deal to a lot of people.

Please take time to include the Littler and Holmes families in your prayers.

£10 CHALLENGE

Here is *Jacqui Barker's* final report on the events she attended during the £10 Challenge.

A trip to Alaska

*Over the years since I've been at St. Paul's I've been all over the world – courtesy of **Mavis and Jim Grant!** I've been to their annual film shows in aid of Christies and have travelled North and South, East and West. I've been on land, sea and air and the photos and commentary have been superb. So, when the chance of going to Alaska came up, I donned my thermals and pitched up in the church lounge to experience the land of snow and ice and simple dwellings and unusual birds and animals of the land and sea. I wasn't disappointed! It was as if I'd been on the trip – we even stopped for tea and biscuits! And in the distance even saw a whale! Amazing what you can experience from your chair in the warmth of St. Paul's. The commentary was fun and educational at the same time and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.*

Jacqui Barker

Astilbes, members of the *saxifrage* family, and grown for their striking plume-like panicles of early summer to early autumn flowers, are a very useful herbaceous plant to grace any garden. Although there are about twelve species there are a great number of hybrids. They thrive in moist, humus-rich soils and some shade from the afternoon sun. In full sun they prefer a boggy site and they will not thrive in chalky soils or indeed any soils which dry out in summer.

There are many superb varieties and those listed below have received the *RHS Award of Garden Merit*

in the garden

With Frank Ashton

A. 'Fanal' has dark crimson flowers in early summer set against dark green foliage.

A. 'Rheinland' has rich pink flowers throughout summer.

A. 'Straussenfeder' (sometimes known as **A. 'Ostrich Plume'**) has coral-pink flowers in late summer and early autumn.

Three other good varieties are **A. 'Bressingham Beauty'** with bright pink flowers in midsummer, while **A. 'Deutschland'** carries white flowers in late spring, and **A. 'Granat'** produces deep red flowers in midsummer.

However there are a couple of more

astilbe-like herbaceous plants. *Arunca dioicus* (**A. Sylvester**) (AGM) is known as *Goatsbeard* and produces long loose panicles of creamy-white flowers in early and midsummer. This makes a tall plant up to about 1.2m high and eventually makes a large clump. It needs similar conditions to *Astilbes* but is a bit more tolerant of slightly drier conditions. Strangely they are members of the rose family.

However back in the *saxifrage* family are the stately **Rodgersias**, again preferring similar soil conditions to their close relatives, the *Astilbes*. These handsome plants can reach from 1.2m to 2m high but are well worth growing.

R. aesculifolia (AGM) has a very appropriate specific name as its large palmate leaves resemble those of the Horse Chestnut (**Aesculus hippocastanum**). This produces numerous tiny star-shaped, white or pink flowers in very large panicles in midsummer.

R. pinnata .Superba' (AGM) has pinnate or sometimes palmate leaves and very bright pink flowers from mid to late summer. Marjorie and I saw some superb specimens of these growing in the late and great *Christopher Lloyd's* garden at Great Dixter in Sussex some seven years ago.

Another superb group of herbaceous perennials, which will stand slightly drier condition than

the above, although, not surprisingly perform better in fertile, moist soils, are the perennial **Phlox** -*Phlox paniculata*. These are at the peak of flowering from summer into early autumn. Many flowering plants benefit from dead-heading (removing the flowers as they fade) in order to stimulate further flowering. However, I find that the flowering period of **Phlox** can be easily extended by cutting every other shoot about half-way back when they reach 30cms to 40cms high around mid to late May. The untrimmed shoots will then grow on to flower at their normal time, flowering for up to three weeks, and as these fade, they are replaced with another batch of flowers from the pruned shoots, thus doubling the flowering period.

Again there are many excellent varieties and the following all have the RHS AGM. **'Amethyst'** has violet flowers. **'Fujiyama'**, unsurprisingly, produces white flowers. **'Mother of Pearl'** has pink-tinted white flowers. **'Prince of Orange'** does exactly what it says on the tin! **'Windsor'** carries reddish-pink flowers with purple

pink eyes and obviously **'White Admiral'** lives up to its name. We have had the latter for over thirty years, and apart from the dazzling white flowers, it has a very noticeable scent. (Some of these were on sale at the *Plant Sale*.)

As I pen these notes on the fourteenth of May on a very cool damp day, the compensation is that yesterday afternoon and evening produced the first useful rain since late February. 10mm fell pushing the May total so far to 27mm. March only produced 21mm and April 24.5mm, the driest March and April in my 15 years of keeping records of precipitation, and I believe in much of England where April was the driest ever recorded. Indeed any rain which fell here in March and April was only just enough to settle the dust. The wettest place in Britain in April was *Tyndrum* with 206mm while *Northampton* had to settle for a mere 1mm!

Enjoy your June garden.

Frank

The *Guardian* does theology: “**Cristiano Ronaldo** once said that God put him on this earth to play football. We'll have to ask **Lionel Messi** if he remembers doing that.” (after *Real Madrid v. Barcelona Champions League Semi Final*)

from the Registers

Baptisms

Harriet Jean Darby	8 May 2011
Ethan Oliver Denton	8 May 2011
Mia Rachel Hirst	8 May 2011
Aaron Philip Wilson	8 May 2011
Molly Delise Breining Whitfield	29 May 2011
Brooke Kathleen Breining Whitfield	29 May 2011
Louis Brian James Johnson	29 May 2011
Declan Ben Ord	29 May 2011

Funerals

Percy Bant 27 April 2011

*We do not understand, eternal God,
the ways of your Spirit in the lives
of women and men.*

*She comes along secret paths
to take us unawares.*

*She touches us in joy and sorrow
to make us whole.*

*She hides behind coincidence
to lead us forward,
and uses our human accidents
as occasions for influence.*

*We do not understand
but we welcome her presence
and rejoice in her power.*

St Hilda Community

through the week at **St Paul's**

<i>Weekdays</i>	Funtasia Kids' Group	
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	Teddies Playgroup	9:00-11:30 *
<i>Monday</i>	Choir	19:30
<i>Tuesday</i>	No. 2 Brownies	18:30-20:00 *
<i>Wednesday</i>	Prayer Group - 4 Early Bank	
<i>Thursday</i>	Mums and Tots	13:00 –15:00 *
<i>Thursday</i>	Rainbows	18:15-19:15 *
<i>Thursday</i>	Brownies	18:30-20:00 *
<i>Thursday</i>	Guides	19:30-21:00 *
<i>Thursday</i>	Bell Ringers	19:30-21:00
<i>Friday</i>	Flower team	11:30-14:30
<i>Friday</i>	Church cleaning	18:00-18:45
<i>Friday</i>	Youth Club - every other week	19:00-21:00 *
<i>Saturday</i>	Prayer Group	09:30-10:00

*** Term time only**

f l o w e r s i n **J u n e**

<i>5 June</i>	<i>Edith Easton; Viv and Keith Dawson</i>
<i>12 June</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>19 June</i>	<i>W Nelson</i>
<i>26 June</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

diary for June

01	<i>Kairos Meeting: Church Lounge</i>	19:30
02	Ascension Day	
	Holy Communion for Ascension Day	19:30
04	Mothers' Union Cream Tea	14:00
05	Sixth Sunday after Easter	
07	Confirmation Service	19:30
08	Social Committee	19:30
09	Holy Communion	10:00
	Lunch Club	12:30
11	Wedding	13:15
12	Pentecost - Whit Sunday	
	Procession of Witness and United Service in the town centre	13:30
14	Mothers' Union trip	09:30
	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
16	Holy Communion	10:00
17	Preparation for Summer Fair	18:00
18	<i>Summer Fair</i>	11:00-14:00
19	Trinity Sunday	
	Trinity Sunday Service with the Archdeacon of Macclesfield	10:30
21	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
23	Holy Communion	10:00
	Lunch Club	12:30
26	First Sunday after Trinity	
	Private party	13:30-16:30
28	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
30	Holy Communion	10:00