

From the Vicarage	3
PCC meeting - report	5
St Paul's: Forum for the Future - <i>David Stockwell</i>	6
Celebration Service 16 October	8
Organs and organists	9
Crossword - <i>Stuart Steels</i>	10
In the Garden - <i>Frank Ashton</i>	14

The Magazine

* November 2011



saint paul's
stalybridge

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 internet at: <http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/>

Sunday Services at Saint Paul's

Each Sunday at 8 am: Holy Communion (Common Worship Order 2)

Sunday	10:30 am	6:30 pm
November 6	Parade Service: <i>theme - the Bible</i>	Holy Communion and Healing Service - <i>E100 The Prophets</i>
November 13	Holy Communion : HCI - <i>Remembrance</i>	<i>Service for the Bereaved</i>
November 20	Morning Prayer: MP:CW - <i>E100 The Apostles</i>	No service
November 27	Holy Communion: HCI - <i>Advent</i>	No service

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

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

MP:CW Morning Prayer: *Common Worship*

10:30 **Sunday School** (begins in church)

from the vicarage

Five reasons why men should join our choir:

- Rehearsals are every Monday night, which means for a couple of hours you can significantly reduce your risk of getting tendinitis from nonstop clicking of a TV remote control or computer mouse.
- Because you wear a robe, you are liberated from the less than manly task of coordinating your Sunday wardrobe.
- If you think your singing in the shower sounds good, wait until you've sung with us for a few weeks.
- If you think you've already done everything there is to do and there are no extreme challenges left, try staying on pitch with our tenors and basses (sorry chaps!).
- When people ask you whether you've been behaving yourself, you can say with the utmost sincerity, 'Now look here, I'm a choir boy.'

We have just had our special service to celebrate the restoration of the church, including, of course, the organ. Having heard the *Saddleworth Male Voice Choir* the night before, I was reminded that excellent as our choir is, and how wonderful and powerful the newly restored organ is, and how admirable our male choir members sing, there is an imbalance in our

choir. In a nutshell – we need more men!

I have agreed with some apprehension (I have never sung in a choir before) to join the choir for our Carol concert, which will be on **Sunday 18th December at 6.30 p.m.** Why not join me, give it a go, you may enjoy it? Of course, the invitation isn't simply for men, I am sure that are some budding 'Divas' out there ready to be discovered! That extends to our children as well – it would be lovely to have some 'young' people in the choir (no auditions needed!)

We have a new Choirmaster, who has the enthusiasm to take the choir forward, why not join them on that journey? Just come along on a Monday night!

I end with the words of *Psalm 138* (ironically used as the reading for our celebration service):

'I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the 'gods' I will sing your praise.'

God bless,



M a g a z i n e

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.

Christmas Greetings

As in previous years, you will be able to send Christmas Greetings to your friends at St Paul's through a "card" in the **December** edition of *The Magazine*.

Put your message, along with £5 in a sealed envelope marked "**Christmas Greetings**" and give it to George Maddock or one of the Wardens. Deadline is **13 November**. All contributions go to Church Funds.



11am - 2 pm

God deliver us from sullen saints. St Teresa of Avila

Behind The Scenes September's PCC Meeting

A number of important issues were discussed at the last PCC meeting on 21st. September.

New PA and AV systems

A Faculty for the new Public Address and Audio Visual Systems has been granted, and we await the display of Public Notices, so people can make comments (or not), over a 28 day consultation period in October. It was decided to implement the PA work as soon as possible, but the AV work will have to go on hold due to financial constraints. The Faculty is only valid for one year and we intend to complete the AV within this period.

Money

Financial concerns do, however, remain on the agenda, as we are still £200 per week short of the money needed to pay the Diocesan Parish Share. Yet again the PCC appeals to all church members, if you can think of a way to bring in income through events (or whatever!) please share your ideas with a PCC (or Social Committee) member.

Whit Walks

We have been informed that the police will no longer provide support to marshal the *Whit Walk of Witness* in Stalybridge. We still intend to employ a brass band for this event, but pressure has been put on us by some of the less 'traditional' churches in Stalybridge, who no longer see value in maintaining the 'walk' in its present format. *Tim says that there will still*

be a Joint Service but other things are not so clear, but, we still intend to march with a band, even if other churches don't!

Bread of Life

An update was given on the 'Bread of Life' charity. There was an excellent response by church members to the request to sign up to provide items for the food parcels. We await further developments.

Church Magazine

It was decided to go forward with a plan to have our church magazine professionally produced, hopefully with the view to increase the circulation into the community. If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in the magazine to help pay for the increased costs let us know? In the new format it will be possible to include photographs – so if you have a good eye for taking photographs we are looking for photographers to form a team who will cover church events.

Sunday and Day Schools charity giving

Our Sunday School, together with pupils from St. Paul's School, will consider giving to and Advent Charity, Save the Children, and then decide themselves how to spend the money collected in purchasing items for those less fortunate than ourselves in the developing world. As a church we are all asked to support this charity.

Let there be (improved) light

By the time you read this article, work will have started to improve the lighting in the upper lounge' approval was given by the PCC.

PCC Away Day

And finally, the PCC was asked to go away and think about our Growth Action Plan for 2012, with the view to discuss such during a PCC Away Day in January. Of course, this should be a whole church issue; so if you have any views on this issue please share them with a PCC member, so they can be considered at the Away Day. As the writer of Proverbs tells us – *'Without a vision the people perish.'*

God bless, Tim

St. Paul's Church

forum for the future
David Stockwell

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know".

I am a 71 year old artist. I have no experience of business and no real knowledge of what this church is

allowed to do in terms of enterprise. I am, therefore expecting to be shot down in flames. On the other hand I have always been a creative thinker, able to come up with ideas and to think, as they say, outside the box.

Tim asked me to say something about the Restoration at the service on 16 October. In preparing this I became aware of the huge number of players in the restoration effort past and present.

The church treasurer, has spelt out to the PCC that we are currently spending more than we have coming in. This, we know, can only be bad news. Yet this was received, for the most part, with a quiet resignation.

*Are we burying our heads in the sand?
Are we fiddling whilst Rome burns?
What, if anything, can we do about it?*

The overriding terror that pervades my thinking is this: **Have we and our forbears made all this effort to save a church building that we simply cannot afford to run?**

There are only three ways out of this:

- We have to give more money
- We have to raise more;
- We have to earn more money.

It is the third of these three options which interests me. What I believe we should be exploring is the better use of our resources and our resources are:-

- *the building*
- *the grounds*
- *resources within the building (the rooms, the kitchen, the furnishings, altar clothes etc)*
- *the talents of our people.*

Since I came to St. Paul's there have been several occasions when we have been approached by the community and we have turned them down. Part of the problem is that we identify too much with the church as "ours" We want to preserve it as a pretty and quiet place. We would not want it to be full of drug addicts, the homeless, jobless and down and outs, noisy children, boozy, raucous men, chatty and gossipy women, forgetting entirely that those are precisely the people whom Jesus would invite in.

Whereas in medieval times the church was at the hub of the community, the centre where everything went on - we are becoming isolated and aloof from our community.

If we could make the church building and land work for us we could both raise money and involve the community more. It might mean sticking our necks out, spending more initially to make more in the long run. It might mean working in partnership with other groups, businesses the council or individuals setting up enterprises and sharing the profits. It might mean appointing a church development officer. But let us

brainstorm some of the possibilities. Brainstorming of course means putting forward all sorts of ideas many of which will be totally impossible and many others totally undesirable.

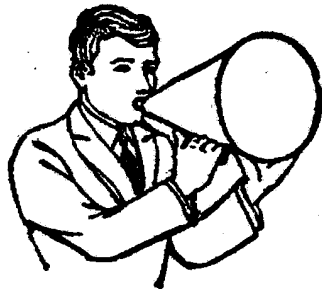
As the recession bites should we look again at car boot sales?

Could we hire out church area more for concerts theatrical events, bingo?

Could establish a regular art gallery, with art and craft exhibitions.

Should we look again at production of church Christmas cards, calendars, postcards, birthday cards.....

MAGAZINE+ *This is just a precis of David's challenging article. You can read it in full on our website. Follow the Magazine link on <http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/>*



The Vicar's new mobile phone had a limited range, but the call rate was reasonable.

They came from the four corners of the circular globe (as the Goons used to say) to help us celebrate the completion of our church's restoration. Well, at least they came from deepest Scotland (Richard Gillings) and deepest Cheshire (Richard Lawry) to be part ofwhat? Was it a service, a concert....or just a one-off?

Whatever we want to call it, it was an enjoyable way to bring the restoration project to an end.

Job done

The Service of Celebration

16 October 2011

Carol Wallwork provided us with a written account of the whole project.

David Stockwell spoke of the numerous individuals who had contributed to the task - and also our responsibility to cherish the building both in their memory and for future generations and Viv Dawson offered a vote of thanks to all who had been involved with, what in the end, was a twenty year project. There were prayers, there was a reading and a sermon - of sorts - from the Archdeacon(rtd.) who did his usual part stand-up/part sage act before dedicating the renewed building and the organ.

We tried to be serious. Yes, there will be problems down the line. Yes, the building eats money and yes, we never have enough – but then what

church does? But, like Leonard Cohen, *cheerfulness kept breaking though*.



And then there was the music....

As an *Introit*, the service began with Dave Brubeck's *Take Five*, or so it seemed, but just as we expected Paul Desmond's alto to enter, the choir struck up with something closely related to *Klezmer* and this set the mood nicely.

Our current organist, Steven Robinson contributed a Cimarosa piano sonata and perhaps showed the organ at its best in the pieces he played at the beginning and end of the service. Roger Firth played Enos Andrew's *Triumphal March* which must have been heard as Andrews first played the rebuilt organ when it was moved to its present position in 1874. It was a jolly piece and you could see why it was taken up by Andrew's contemporaries – we have found notices of it being played in New Zealand and New York State early in the last century.

The choir performed a pleasant anthem: *Fairest Lord Jesus* and a sung blessing. We all got to sing a couple of decent hymns including *Now thank we all our God*. Inevitably there was one of (Continued on [page 9](#))

those modern songs - *I will offer up my life* - which seem to be written in English, but aren't.

To round the day off, there were refreshments served in the lounge.

Sometimes things like church restorations seem to go on for ever. I remember one of those fund raising thermometers which was a permanent fixture on my daily journey – until they knocked down the church it was attached to. This *Service of Celebration* was a fitting way to mark the successful conclusion of a huge project which has involved a host of St Paul's people from both the present and the recent past. Sure, we will have to get serious again soon, but it is nice to let cheerfulness break in once in a while! *Ed.*

Roger Firth has updated his comprehensive history and description of St Paul's organ to include the changes made during its most recent restoration. You will find this on the website in the History section while in the Pictures section, the Music page has been updated with pictures of the innards of the organ while the work was carried out in the past year.

of **Organs and Organists**

We have also been adding to our list of *Steven Robinson's* predecessors as St Paul's organist.

Local organists, played important roles both in the spread of the choral movement and in local musical education in nineteenth-century textile towns. During the 1850s our organist was *John Marsden* (1825 – 1889). He was a member of a talented musical family for his younger brother, George, was organist at St Thomas' Werneth. *George* had studied in Cologne and later graduated from Cambridge. He was also a music teacher, head of Oldham School of Music and held the post of conductor of a private orchestra which gave weekly concerts during the winter. *John* was also a music teacher – and a pretty successful one too. Along with his brother he was an active worker for the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

John Marsden supplemented his income by organising “annual grand concerts” in Stalybridge Town Hall. These ran from 1852 to 1856 when he formed the Stalybridge Philharmonic Society which gave an (Continued on [page 12](#))

A crossword with a Saint Paul's flavour

.....by **Stuart Steels**

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20				21								
								22				
				23								
24								25				

A C R O S S

- 1 & 5 Jam Queen's reading matter
- 8 Very angry
- 9 Number of psalms
- 10 St Paul's graveyard, at one time

- 11 French meaning "born"
- 12 Medical specialism of the throat
- 15 Many of the congregation before service
- 19 Payment made to a professional person

- 20 Very useful refreshment if sermon is boring.
- 22 Italian musical term meaning passionate, anger
- 23 Legal
- 24 O _____ and see how gracious the Lord is.
- 25 The odds are well matched at part of vespers.

D O W N

- 1 Now we have two Doctors at St Paul's
- 2 Gardener *Frank* will have one of these
- 3 *Mothers' Union* members could be thus described
- 4 Container
- 5 Russell, Doreen, Gillian and others operate one of these.
- 6 Ravel's popular piece of music
- 7 Children's favourite Easter treat.
- 13 Poopiest (anag.)
- 14 Christmastide fuel
- 16 Ice houses
- 17 Ebed-Melech was one (Jeremiah 38, v7)
- 18 Blot out
- 20 Role
- 21 Gardeners mixed dressing which goes a long way.

Solution is on page 13

Next month's Magazine

Items for the next edition of **The Magazine** should be received by

13 November 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.*

**FUN#ASIA
KIDS' CLUB**

Caring for your children
before and after school
7:30-8:45 am & 3:15-6:00 pm
and also 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
in the school holidays
Ring Karen Pickering
07742 482486

(Continued from [page 9](#))

average of four concerts a year in the Town Hall. The repertoire was mainly vocal and sacred music and the Society was especially keen to provide music for the “lower classes” and the aim of the Society was “to enable the humbler classes to listen to the best music for a few pence, which otherwise they could not hear for less than some shillings”. To fulfil this aim the society sometimes performed a “Peoples Concert” a few days after its full-priced concerts, apparently with much success, as one newspaper reported: “Considering the superior quality of the music and the low rates of admission (*one shilling to three pence compared with full-price concerts which ranged from three shilling and six to one shilling*) we do not hesitate to say that this was the cheapest concert we can recollect to have been given in this neighbourhood. and have to congratulate the committee of the Philharmonic Society on the satisfactory results of their spirited endeavour to provide good cheap music for the people.

At the end of the 1860s, Saint Paul’s had an assistant organist in the person of *Joseph Bradley*, a 12 year old boy from Newton who had been trained by the organist of Manchester Cathedral. He went on to have a distinguished musical career which included spells as organist with the Halle Orchestra in Manchester – where at one time he conducted seven performances of *Messiah* in one week!

He was chorus master of the Glasgow Choral Union and played the organ at the opening of the International Exhibition in Glasgow in 1888. He later moved to Australia where he was conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Society of Sydney in as well as the new Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He spent over twenty years in Australia and his contribution to Australian musical life was such as to merit an entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

The churches of the Mottram Deanery
of the Chester Diocese are included in the
Chester Diocese Cycle of Prayer
beginning on 24 October.

You will find a link to this on the website - go to the **Magazine** page.

Saint Paul’s, her clergy and Readers will be included in the
intercessions for 8 November.

1	R	U	2	T	H	3	S	4	C	5	B	I	6	L	7	E
O		R		8	I	R	A	T	E		O					G
9	B	O	O	K	S		R		L		L					G
I		W		10	T	O	T	A	L	M	E	S	S			
11	N	E	E		E		O				R					
S		12	L	A	R	Y	N	G	13	O	L	O	G	14	Y	
O					L				P							U
15	N	O	16	I	S	Y	P	17	E	O	P	L	18	E		L
			G					U		O			19	F	E	E
20	P	O	L	O	21	M	I	N	T	S		F				L
A			O			I		U		22	I	R	A	T	O	
R			O		23	L	I	C	I	T		C				G
24	T	A	S	T	E		H			25	E	V	E	N	S	

Monday morning: when we look back wistfully on the good old days – Saturday and Sunday.

Last month, among other things, I mentioned some failures. What I didn't mention was the tremendous crops of apples and other top fruits. Even in late July, while judging allotments in *Trafford*, I noticed apple branches broken from the sheer weight of fruit. My late friend and Radio Manchester colleague, *Tom Leigh*, was a real expert on fruit, and always reckoned that most top fruits need a really good period of cold in winter to produce good crops, and they certainly got it last winter.

in the **garden**

with *Frank Ashton*

I was reminded of *Tom* when we visited the *Great Autumn Show at Harrogate* in mid-September, when we saw a couple of nursery stands displaying and selling the stunning autumn **gentians**. *Tom* came to mind because at least twenty years ago I asked his advice on growing these superb plants, but in fact it turned out he also managed to fail to grow them successfully, and two other friends who are excellent gardeners have achieved exactly the same results as us. We have all bought plants grown in pots in late August or September at shows such as *Southport* or *Harrogate*, and planted them right away and enjoyed the rich blue carpet of blooms they provided. Unfortunately none of us saw them again.

Just after the *Harrogate Show* and before we went away, the October issue of *The Garden* (the monthly R.H.S. magazine) arrived and there was an article about autumn **Gentians**, and the brief note on the contents page stated that '*they were easy to grow given the right conditions*'! Well, I am sure this could be said of most plants, but it is strange how four good gardeners have failed with these beautiful plants, especially when we consider their origins. Most of the autumn **gentians** are selections or hybrids of **Gentiana sino-ornata**. These were originally found growing at between 14000 and 15000 feet (4500m) on the Chungtien plateau in the Yunnan province of western China by the great plant hunter, *George Forrest*, on his first expedition between 1904 and 1907. (This expedition was sponsored by *Arthur Kilpin Bulley* who founded *Bees Seeds* and *Ness Gardens* on the *Wirral*.)

Any plants from such regions have got to be fully hardy and able to withstand very severe winter conditions. However on picking the bones from the article, the emphasis is on bright, airy and moist conditions and with no shade from other plants, and curiously for a plant classed as an alpine, this group of **Gentians** don't need the sharp drainage which most alpines demand. Additionally they don't like lime, therefore they should be easy to grow in this area, and even the severe frosts of last winter (and the threatened cold of this autumn and winter) should not harm them.

As I am penning these notes in the *Algarve* at 30 degrees C, I realize that they would never survive in this part of the world and even many parts of southern England would find them very challenging, being too dry or with alkaline soil or both. Apparently, they can be grown successfully in containers and a low, wide pot (i.e., a pan) with a depth of 15cm (6ins) is recommended. Even washing up bowls can be used with holes drilled for drainage. Obviously acidic compost must be used and the suggested mix was equal parts *John Innes No 2* and ericaceous compost.

Planting in spring is recommended. Maybe this is where the four of us went wrong as we have bought plants in full flower and planted them in late August or September. We are also advised that they are almost impossible to overwater so this may have been another factor in our failures. Feeding with a high potash fertilizer (e.g., tomato food) is suggested some six weeks after planting, i.e., late May or early June). When, after flowering, the foliage begins to yellow and tiny green shoots appear (ready to grow in spring), the old growth can be pulled away. After three years they may need dividing and replanting.

So for a wonderful carpet of blue in autumn look no further, and if any of you have succeeded with these beauties, answers on a postcard please to those of us who have failed! I am tempted to try again and track down a

specialist nursery with a view to getting some plants in spring.

Having returned from a sun-baked Portugal on the 9th of October to some atrocious wet weather (100cm in the first ten days of October) which followed the brief Indian summer of late September (which we missed), I note that our old friend, the *Cluanie Inn* in *Wester Ross* once again topped the September rainfall with 527mm (21 ins), some 518mm ahead of the driest place, *Cranwell* on *Lincoln Edge*, which managed a mere 9mm! What contrasts we have in these small islands.

Enjoy your November garden.

Frank

In Sunday School one morning young Joseph raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time. "There's something I can't work out.

According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right," said his teacher.

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?" "All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question, Joseph?"

"Well what were all the grown-ups doing?"

from the registers

B a p t i s m s

Harrison David Anthony Smith	9 October
Tyler James Biddle	9 October
Luke Sam Biddle	9 October
Jack Benjamin Fielding	9 October
Max Alan Newman	23 October

W e d d i n g s

Bryn Daniel Shelley <i>and</i> Joanne Laverick	8 October
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F u n e r a l s

Charles David Preece, 82	19 September
William Alan Bradley, 79	23 September
Peter Renshaw, 63	27 September
William Albert Allen, 75	30 September
Ann Price, 59	30 September
Jacqueline Williams, 67	4 October
Mary Howard, 85	12 October

All Saints Day - 1 November 2011

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...
As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet...
The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?
Richard Baxter

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

Weekdays	<i>Funtasia Kids' Group</i>	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	<i>Teddies' Playgroup 9:00-11:30</i>	<u>TTO</u>
Monday	<i>Choir</i>	<i>19:30</i>
Tuesday	<i>No. 2 Brownies</i>	<i>18:30-20:00</i> <u>TTO</u>
Wednesday	<i>Prayer Group</i>	<i>See Newsletter for details</i>
Thursday	<i>Mums and Tots</i>	<i>13:00-15:00</i> <u>TTO</u>
	<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>18:15-19:15</i> <u>TTO</u>
	<i>Brownies</i>	<i>18:30-20:00</i> <u>TTO</u>
	<i>Guides</i>	<i>19:30-21:00</i> <u>TTO</u>
	<i>Bell Ringers</i>	<i>19:30-21:00</i>
Friday	<i>Flower Team</i>	<i>11:30-14:30</i>
	<i>Church cleaning</i>	<i>18:00-18:45</i>
	<i>Youth Club - alternate weeks</i>	<i>19:00-21:00</i> <u>TTO</u>
Saturday	<i>Prayer Group</i>	<i>09:30-10:00</i>

TTO = Term time only

flowers in **November**

November 6	<i>vacant</i>
November 13	<i>vacant</i>
November 20	<i>Keith and Viv Dawson</i>
November 27	<i>F H and M Ashton</i>

diary for **November**

1	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30
2	Social Committee	19:30
3	Holy Communion	10:00
5	Wedding	13:30
6	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	
8	Mothers' Union Christmas Meal	09:00
	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30
9	Kairos	19:30
10	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30
	Lunch Club	12:30
11	Brownies' Sleepover	19:30 - Sat 09:30
13	Twenty first Sunday after Trinity	
15	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30
16	Parochial Church Council	19:30
17	Holy Communion	10:00
18	Preparation for the Christmas Fair	18:00
19	Christmas Fair	11:00 - 14:00
20	Last Sunday after Trinity : Christ the King	
	Private party	13:00 - 14:00
22	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30
24	Holy Communion	10:00
	Lunch Club	12:30
27	First Sunday of Advent	
29	Weight Watchers	17:30 - 19:30