

St. Saviour's Parish Church, Great Moor.



Pentecost Sunday 4th June

Church Magazine - June 2017

The Vicar writes:



Phyllis West remembered

Some of you will remember well our dear friend Phyllis West who died peacefully in a Nursing Home in April after a short illness. Phyllis had only been in the home a few weeks and prior to that she had lived for the last seven years with her son Malcolm.

I first met Phyllis and Douglas when I came to be vicar of St. Saviour's 21 years ago. Douglas had retired as the organist and was quite unwell. Phyllis lived her life in the light of her strong faith - she loved her church and her Church Family and the worship was a huge part of her life, which I know she missed greatly when she left Stockport.

We were all very sorry when Phyllis moved to Hereford, but realised it was the right thing for her and her family. She stayed in touch by having a weekly CD recording of our Sunday morning Service and the church magazine.

Sadly for Phyllis her eyesight deteriorated over the last 2/3 years and was unable to write to her friends here in Stockport.

Phyllis had a lovely voice and after Douglas died she rejoined us in the choir as a contralto and was very committed until she, too, became unwell. Phyllis sat next to Sarah Summerton and I know Sarah has fond memories of singing next to Phyllis and learning the alto parts to many of the hymns. Sarah said: "I got to know Phyllis as a friend when she rejoined the choir. She was such good fun and we hit it off immediately. I shall always remember her for her wonderful sense of humour and love of church music. She was a great inspiration to me".

Peter Lainton writes: "Before Phyllis moved to Hereford, nine members of our church family met on a monthly basis for Bible Study at her house, even after Douglas passed away. After discussing passages from the bible, she would get our grey matter working by asking for our own observations, leading to interesting and varied conversations and opinions.

Phyllis was extremely knowledgeable and her expertise helped us to understand things more clearly. She was also a wonderful hostess. A yearly highlight was her family joining the group each New Year to celebrate.

Her enthusiasm and her friendliness continue to be sadly missed by all of us."

Another person who has very fond memories of Phyllis is our former organist, Simon Vivian who writes: "It was with great sadness that Charlotte and I heard of Phyllis's death. Phyllis was one of the first people we met at St. Saviour's back in 2005 when we joined the church. With me as the new organist and Charlotte as a new addition to the choir, Phyllis was keen to welcome us warmly with her radiant smile, and to tell us all about the wonderful music tradition she was so proud of at St. Saviour's which she and Douglas had been part of for so many years.

Sadly, Charlotte and I didn't get to meet Douglas. But we did get to make music alongside Phyllis, to enjoy many laughs with her, to experience her effervescent enthusiasm, and, as we got to know her, to hear her cherished memories of her late husband. And Phyllis was also incredibly generous - not least when she passed a lot of Douglas' library of organ and choral music on to me which I still have and use to this day. Nor will Charlotte and I forget that lovely trip in 2010 to a sun-kissed Herefordshire for Phyllis' 90th birthday garden party. It was such an honour and joy to be able to celebrate that special day with her and her family. Wonderful memories of a wonderful lady."

Pentecost - a day that changed history

People call it 'Whitsun' because once upon a time it was a day for wearing white and going on church processions. The church, however, calls it 'Pentecost' and it's on June 4th this year. It is a crucial date in the Church calendar – in some ways the birthday of Christianity as we know it.



After the crucifixion the followers of Jesus took to meeting in an 'upper room' in Jerusalem, with the doors locked 'for fear of the Jews.' It was here that the risen Christ appeared to them several times, as well as on a few occasions in other locations when they ventured out. Eventually He told them that He was 'going back to the Father', but that they should stay in the city until they received the spiritual resources to do the job for which He had called them – to take His message to the world. They did as they were told, about 120 men and women, Luke tells us, including the mother of Jesus.

Then it happened, on the Jewish feast of Shavuot, which was 50 days after the Passover. Pentecost was a spiritual experience which transformed their lives. Emboldened, they emerged from the upper room and started preaching on the city streets. They continued to do so even when ordered to stop. What had happened to bring about this transformation? The answer was two words: Holy Spirit. If that sounds very elusive and vague, think of it in its basic meaning in the Greek of the New Testament: Breath – the very source of life itself, the most precious gift of God. At Pentecost the handful of believers were brought to new life because the Holy Spirit of God breathed upon them. The Church was born. Two thousand people were baptised. Wimps became witnesses!

Joe & Erin are getting married on Saturday 3rd June in Erin's home church, St. James the Great, Shirley.

A prayer for Joe & Erin's wedding day



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of love and for bringing Joe and Erin together. May their marriage be life-giving and lifelong, enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace. May beauty surround them on their journey ahead and may your love embrace them as they become husband & wife.
Amen.

Marriage is a commitment to life ~ to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.

It offers opportunities for sharing and growth no other human relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life ~ happiness is fuller, memories are fresher and commitment is stronger.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.

Marriage is a promise, made in the hearts of two people who love each other, which takes a lifetime to fulfil.

Holiday @ Home

is back!

Wednesday 9th August

Tickets £6 from Trisha

The day will look something like this:

Coffee/tea and biscuits on arrival

Pampering session for the ladies at 10.30 a.m.

There will also be a choice of activities ~
you may like to bring an old hat!

At 11.30 a.m. there will be a Quiz (prize for the winner).

Some gentle exercise before lunch.

Lunch

After lunch there will be entertainment

3 p.m. Cream Tea

The day will cost £6
and includes all food and drink.

Tickets generally go very quickly, so do please get yours as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as we can only cater for 50 people.

Desert Island Discs by Linda Shelmerdine



The Vicar asked the following questions:

1. How would you cope as a solitary castaway on a desert island?
2. Choose four pieces of music or hymns you would want to take with you, and one CD and please give a sentence of explanation for each.
3. What luxury item would you choose?

Like the vicar, I too live alone and have done for the last 30 years. So whilst I'm quite content with my own company, good friends are absolutely essential and I'm very lucky to have them, therefore I would prefer not to be a solitary castaway.

My 4 pieces of music are:

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No.2. Listening to this can transport me to another place. It also reminds me of the film "Brief Encounter" of course, which always makes me cry, no matter how many times I've seen it!

"American Pie" by Don McLean. This is the soundtrack that went with me in the early 1970's as a young woman doing my nurse training. Happy days!

"Knowing Me, Knowing You" by Abba. Reminds me of a very sad time in my life, but music can become very personal and meaningful, and can help us to get through difficult times in our lives.

"Make Me A Channel of Your Peace" is a lovely hymn that I always enjoy singing.

The CD I would choose is "Facing Future" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, especially the track "Somewhere Over The Rainbow/Wonderful World". He's an Hawaiian singer, and this track combines the 2 songs in such a way that I can almost feel that I'm there on a white sandy beach with a cocktail in my hand, watching the sun set over the ocean....!

The luxury I would choose would have to be some beautifully scented soap, plus a huge bathtub. And a good supply of hot running water of course!

Coffee shops becoming the 'new local'

When you arrange to meet up with your friends, do you choose a pub or coffee shop? It seems more and more of us are choosing coffee shops, where we can escape the social pressures to drink alcohol, and the need to buy expensive rounds of drinks.



If coffee shops continue to grow, then it is reckoned that there will be more than 32,000 coffee shops in the UK by 2025. They could even outnumber pubs by 2030. There are currently 50,000 pubs, but the number is in steady decline.

The research was done by Allegra Strategies.



Drug that is blighting our cities



This is beyond sad: there is a drug called Spice that, though it was once a 'legal high', has killed hundreds of users, and has turned many a teenager "into a 'zombie'".

The Manchester Police are now warning that Spice is now so widespread that it has now become 'a problem we cannot afford to get any worse... Those who

take Spice are often left incapacitated or seriously ill ... they can also become aggressive and a danger to themselves and others.'

Spice was reclassified as a class B drug last December. Although users believe it is similar to cannabis, in reality Spice can be up to 900 times more potent and far more addictive. Because the drug is synthetic, no two batches are the same, making it incredibly unpredictable. Tragically, users are as young as 15.



Canon David Winter considers the latest weapons used against innocent people.

THE WAY I SEE IT: Objects are not cruel; people are.

Once upon a time a terrorist needed a gun or, preferably, a bomb. We were constantly urged to keep our eyes open for people acting 'suspiciously' or carrying suspicious-looking things. Now, it seems, that era has given way to an even more sinister one. This year's chosen terrorist weapon is a motor vehicle.

The people walking across Westminster Bridge on that March afternoon could not possibly know which of the ordinary cars or lorries rolling past them was 'suspicious'. There were no sensible precautions they could have taken. And then, from nowhere, it seems, they were the victims of a major terrorist attack. A week or two later much the same thing happened in Stockholm, as it had done in Nice a few months earlier. Suddenly the motorcar, which stands innocently outside almost every house in Britain, and the lorry which brings food to our supermarket, have turned into vicious weapons of assault.

I thought of this over Holy Week this year, when several of our hymns speak of the 'cruel nails' which pinned Jesus to the cross, or the 'cruel tree' on which he died. But of course the nails weren't cruel – just ordinary ones, that could have been mending someone's fence. The 'tree' was totally innocent, cut down from a nearby forest where it had offered shade and comfort. Objects aren't 'cruel' or 'evil' of themselves. People are. Just laws and effective security will help to restrain evil actions, but in the end you change the world by changing people.

Those last few hours on Good Friday show it taking place. The soldiers who drove in those nails were forgiven. Their officer recognised in the man on the cross a 'son of God', and the penitent thief found paradise. The agent of it all was a dying man, the one we call 'Saviour'. It still is.

Are you in danger from work-life merge syndrome?

Maureen, the CEO of an animal charity, had a heart attack at 55. The reason astonished her: it was because she loved her job too much. 'My whole life revolved around work. I loved my job, I didn't realise I was so stressed.'

A recent study backed by AXA PPP Healthcare has found that more than half of City workers suffer dangerously high levels of stress. They fail to balance their home and work lives, and many people are checking and answering their emails at 3 a.m.

But being a workaholic is not commendable – it is downright stupid. It could be killing you. And technology doesn't help: it means you can work anywhere and never quite switch off.

The reason why people become driven employees vary, depending on generation. Millennials are preoccupied with money, socialising and making a difference; older generations are just trying to finish the mortgage and help fund their offspring.

The Bible warns us against letting work rule our lives: 'Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind...there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches... this is vanity and an unhappy business.' (Ecc. 4:6-8)



Details of the British Heart Foundation's 'Health at Work' scheme:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/health-at-work>

Siobhan O'Reilly Calthrop of LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) considers the phenomenon of Fake News.

'Fake news' has received much media attention lately. The spread of disinformation, propaganda, and fabrication of fact is hardly new: humans have been spreading mistruths through trusted sources for years. What has taken it to a new level, however, is the way it is now spread: social media.

Fake news items can pop up on our social media stream at any time and, being one of myriad other pieces of information passing before our eyes, they are easily read without care for checking the source. Add to this the fact that they are usually sensational in content, can be shared or liked in just one click, and you have the ingredients for gossip and lies on a global scale.

Some media organisations are taking measures to fight back by hiring companies to check facts, or design algorithms to stop the spread of fake stories. Yet even the best software is never 100% successful. Human wisdom, or just basic common sense, will always need to be applied.

In this age of information overload and 'like' buttons, it can be so easy to accept things without proper thought, to forward or 'like' things that may be inaccurate or heavily biased.

Even beyond social media, though, news has become increasingly concise, presented in bite-sized portions for us to easily digest as we rush from one task to another. Nuances and truths get lost in the sound-bites of news headlines and our personal updates.

So how are we to respond to this as Christians seeking to engage with contemporary culture? How do we maintain integrity, authenticity and honesty in our speech and relationships both online and offline? And what 'false news' might we be presenting about our own lives?

We're called to be salt and light, to be wise as serpents but innocent as doves. When reading the news, whatever form that takes, how often do we check the source, find out what other news sites are saying, and critically weigh up agendas?

Siobhan is a tutor in St. Albans. Her blog at www.everyoneelseisnormal.com



Summer Fair

Sat. 22nd July 11 am - 1 pm

Donations for the following stalls will be greatly appreciated. Please can you let the Stall-holders have your gifts **well before the day so that items can be priced up.** Many thanks.

Bottles containing anything!	Ashley (MENSSA)
Kiddies Summer Toys/Games	Choir (Sylvia & Aly)
Sweets & Chocolate Tombola	Trisha
Plants	Pauline & Linda
Summer Gifts	Angela
Pet Gifts	Sarah
Jigsaws	Vicar
Cakes, Preserves & Biscuits	Cathy & Sue (MU)
Raffle	Pam, Rena & Karin
Refreshments	Glenys

Thanking you in anticipation of your much valued support.

Sponsored Walk



MENSSA (our men's group) is organising a sponsored walk on Tuesday 11th July to raise funds for our Church, beginning at 7 p.m.

The walk is about 3 miles long and takes about 90 minutes.

We will meet at the Recreation Ground in Marple, walk down to the Roman Lakes and follow the track to the Roman Bridge. Here we cross the River Goyt and climb up to the Peak Forest Canal. The walk back to Marple is along the towpath with extensive views across the valley to Cobden Edge and Mellor.

All are welcome to come along, including your dogs.

Please contact Roger Salt tel. 0161 439 0371 for your sponsorship form. Thank you!

All in the month of June

100 years ago: on 4th June 1917 that the Order of the British Empire was established by King George V. It is an order of chivalry awarded to people who make a significant achievement for (or contribution to) the United Kingdom. There are five classes: Knight/Dame Grand Cross (GBE), Knight/Dame Commander (KBE/DBE), Commander (CBE), Officer (OBE), and Member (MBE).

80 years ago: on 30th June 1937 that the 999 emergency telephone service went into operation in London. It was the first such service in the world.

75 years ago: on 4th – 7th June 1942 that WW 2's Battle of Midway took place. The USA defeated Japan in the most important naval battle of the Pacific Campaign.

75 years ago: on 25th June 1942 that The Daily Telegraph newspaper published the first account of the mass murder of Polish Jews. It reported that Germany had murdered 700,000 already, and that a further 1,000 a day were being killed in gas chambers at Auschwitz. It was reported to be 'the greatest massacre in history' yet the story was largely ignored; it only made page 5 of the newspaper.

60 years ago: on 27th June 1957 that Britain's Medical Research Council reported that there was a cause-and-effect relationship between smoking and lung cancer. As a result, the Minister of Health said he had a duty to warn the public of the risks smokers faced.

50 years ago: on 5th to 10th June 1967 that the Six-Day War began. Israel launched pre-emptive air strikes against Egypt and then pushed into Jordan and Syria. Israel captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

30 years ago: on 11th June 1987 that Margaret Thatcher became the only British Prime Minister of the 20th century to win three consecutive terms in office.

15 years ago: on 21st June 2002 that the World Health Organisation declared Europe polio-free.

10 years ago: on 29th June 2007 that Apple released the first iPhone.