

# CHURCH NEWS

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**FEBRUARY 2021**

Friends,

## How to handle temptation

*"I can resist everything but temptation"* (said Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

***The first temptation was to turn stones into bread:*** Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

***The second temptation was to put God to the test:*** Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

***The third temptation was to worship Satan:*** Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

*'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!'* (Corrie Ten Boom).

**Canon Paul Hardingham**  
**Parish Pump website**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As the cold weather deepens, we must remember that February is a month of promise of better things to come. How true that is this year in the hopes of moving on to a safer world. We turn our minds to the homeless who are cold, hungry and sick. We pray that resources are found by charities and government to help these unfortunate folk

Our prayers are with any of our church family who are sick in mind, body or soul. It is difficult in this time of isolation to see above loneliness and depression.

We pray for the families who have recently been bereaved. May the love and support of friends and family help them through this difficult time.

On a happier note, there are snowdrops showing their little white heads in the Church garden. Very soon we will have the wonderful show of daffodils for which we must thank the Church gardeners. Thanks to Mo and her team.

In February, birthday best wishes go to Pat Pollitt and Flo Smeathers and, indeed, anyone else who will be celebrating this month.



We send our best wishes to both John and June Mitchell. It was good news to hear that John was feeling well enough to pursue his passion for constructing ancient musical instruments. His specialty is the **Rebec**. Mavis Davies is celebrating the safe arrival on 18 JAN of her first great grandchild, Lola Grace, a daughter for Tom and Laura. Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

'Jumble Sale time' once again comes and goes without taking place. If not February, then maybe, just maybe, next August!

Thank you to those who have sent donations towards postage (inc stamps), magazine costs and also the weekly offerings.

**The News Team**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 14 FEB - Valentines Day

Sun 21 FEB - Church Action on Poverty

[ Sunday

22 FEB ~ 7 MAR - Fairtrade Fortnight:

17 FEB ~ 1 APR - LENT

## LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

### 7 FEB

Epiphany 5: Isaiah 40.21-31; Psalm 147.1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9.16-23; **Mark 1.29-39**

### 14 FEB

Transfiguration: 2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; **Mark 9.2-9**

### 21 FEB

Lent 1: Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; **Mark 1.9-15**

### 28 FEB

Lent 2: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; **Mark 8.31-38**

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## BREAKFAST BEFORE

## SOUP, SWEET and MEET

## FILM NIGHT

...will each resume as soon as we dare.

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## ON FACEBOOK

If the United States saw what the United States is doing in the United States, the United States would invade the United States to liberate the United States from the tyranny of the United States.

## Comment before inauguration

## THANKS

Dear Alison

Please thank everyone at Church for the lovely Angel ornament and chocolates you gave me for Christmas. It was very kind of you all.

Best wishes for 2021 and many thanks again

**Lots of love Ann Hardie**

RING OUT WILD BELLS (IN MEMORIAM)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.  
Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.  
Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.  
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.  
Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.  
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.  
Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Lord Tennyson  
1809~1892

SHROVE TUESDAY and PANCAKES

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday [~16 FEB] before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be ‘shriven’, or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today’s pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445

in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she’d be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil’s Palin in 1619 runs: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.”

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3 Feb and 9 Mar.

Parish Pump

NATIONAL NESTBOX WEEK

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder, gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14 FEB each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nest boxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

Parish Pump

SUDOKU SOLUTION

See later...

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9

## MEMORIES OF JEAN MURKIN

Jean was born Jane Logan Matchett on 13 January 1922 in Belfast and it was there that she and Frank first met in 1937 when she was 16. A year later they met again by chance and started to see each other but only after Frank had called on Jean's father to ask for permission. In 1940 they became engaged after Frank returned from Dunkirk and married in July 1941 in Belfast.

Jean enlisted in the WAAF in 1942 and came to Wilmslow to do her basic training as a radar operator. She was selected to train as a radar operator and trained at the Technical College near Woolwich Arsenal which was a target for enemy bombing. Jean and Frank set up home with Frank's parents initially in Heald Green in 1945. In the 6 years of War, they had seen each other on only a handful of occasions, but, in spite of this, they were happily married for 63 years. Daughter, Lesley, was born in 1946 and they lived in Gatley for a while and then moved to Cheadle Hulme where Jean took a job at Cheadle Hulme School working in the Linen room where she worked until she was 60.

After Lesley's marriage to Roger in October 1970, Jean and Frank moved to Woods Lane where they found true neighbours in Sandy and Morag and later their daughters, Jennifer and Alison. Jean was an independent lady, very loyal and always ready to listen. She was gran to Roger and Lesley's children, Judith and Philip, and great gran to Judith and Neil's children, Ella and Miles. She will be very much missed and remembered with great affection.

***Rev Peter Sharp***

We didn't know how lucky we were when we moved into Woods Lane in 1978. We had 42 years with the best neighbours we could possibly have wished for- they were good friends to us and surrogate grandparents to Jennifer and Alison. How do you sum up that long a friendship? We never had a cross word, they were always ready to help with anything – gardening advice, travel directions, looking after the girls and taking delight in all their achievements.

Jean only ever met "nice" people. The "nice" man at the Co-op, the "nice" man at the Post Office, the lovely ladies at the Library who sat her down and made her a cup of tea whenever she went in. I was talking to her one day a few years ago when she had been to Stockport on

the bus and at the bus stop had met a "nice" lady. Before they got to Stockport Jean knew her life story, had listened to her problems and the lady would probably have thought of her as a friend. That was nothing unusual for Jean. When I asked her why she thought she only met "nice" people, she had no idea that the common factor was herself – she brought out the best in people because she wasn't critical, always listened and you felt she really cared.

So many memories – listening to Jean tell of her time in the WAAF and being bombed out twice, coming over to Manchester as a young bride and being dreadfully shy till she had Lesley who helped her get talking to people. Her time at Cheadle Hulme School in the linen room, mothering all the boarders far from home and parents. Her family in Ireland and all over the World – she was so proud of them all.

As we said, the girls grew up with Frank and Jean like Grandparents, starting when Jean used to see 2 year old Jennifer peeping through the hedge at her and minding Alison as a toddler. Frank gave Jennifer her love of gardening and taught her to ride a bike and Jean taught Alison how to sew. They've added their own memories.

***Sandy and Morag***

Just a few thoughts and happy memories. Card school - we played a lot of card games and Jean was very competitive at snap! Dog training classes with our toys. Telling them to 'come' and yanking the string across the room. She made medals for us and there were silver winners trophies made out of tinfoil.

Going for a walk and coming back to roast lamb. Making cakes and pretending we were presenting on TV. Playing Aeroplanes on the sofa. Playing Tiddlywinks - we had an extra cup at the back worth 10 points for the ones that always scooted over the tray. She had this huge tin of old buttons and we used to play shops with them. Playing cricket and pitch and putt. There with the witch hazel when I bumped my head, sat on her worktop, holding a mirror for me so I could do it myself. When we were very small - the powder puff, which you never see anymore, and laughing as we powdered our noses.

She was a Granny to us when our own was too far away to see very often. Being so proud of

us when we did well in exams, she could never wait to tell her family. I think in the case of my GCSE's they knew before I did because we were on holiday and had arranged for the results to be sent to Jean. She was one of a kind and I miss her deeply.

**Jennifer**

My memories of Jean – oh what do I say,  
as you are laid to rest today;  
so many stories going round in my head –  
I thought I would write you a poem instead.

Jean was a constant, ever present in our lives –  
a neighbour but with family-like ties;  
separated only by a low privet hedge,  
a place of conversation, or used as a ledge.

Frank and Jean, they were always invited,  
to share birthdays, meals, times we were excited;  
games or entertainment made the evening go by,  
with laughter and fun, how the hours would fly.

Late afternoons or our days off from school  
would always be great fun as a rule,  
Mum would never quite know what she would find,  
playing cards, tiddly winks, games of all kinds.

Sorting the button box, shops on the table,  
aeroplanes, dog shows, walks when we were able;  
golf with Frank's walking stick, pitch and putt in the  
park.  
hiding behind the sofa when it got dark.

I could go on and on, so much more I could say,  
so it's probably best if I call it a day;  
except to say thank you, and please rest in peace,  
you live on in our hearts, may our love never cease.

**Alison Smith**

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## CLIMATE BREAKDOWN SURVEY

A new report by **Christian Aid**, *Counting the cost 2020: a year of climate breakdown*, has identified 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more, with nine of them causing damage worth at least \$5 billion. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be higher.

Among them is Storm Ciara which struck the UK, Ireland and other European countries in February costing, \$2.7 billion and killing 14. The UK's Environment Agency issued 251 flood warnings.

While the report focuses on financial costs, which are

usually higher in richer countries because they have more valuable property, some extreme weather events in 2020 were devastating in poorer countries, even though the price tag was lower. South Sudan, for example, experienced one of its worst floods on record, which killed 138 people and destroyed the year's crops.

Some of the disasters hit fast, like Cyclone Amphan, which struck the Bay of Bengal in May and caused losses valued at \$13 billion in just a few days. Other events unfolded over months, like floods in China and India, which had an estimated cost of \$32 billion and \$10 billion respectively.

Six of the ten most costly events took place in Asia, five of them associated with an unusually rainy monsoon. And in Africa, huge locust swarms ravaged crops and vegetation across several countries, causing damages estimated at \$8.5 billion. The outbreak has been linked to wet conditions brought about by unusual rains fuelled by climate change.

But the impact of extreme weather was felt all over the world. In Europe, two extra-tropical cyclones, Ciara and Alex, had a combined cost of almost \$6 billion. And the US suffered from both a record-breaking hurricane season and a record-breaking fire season adding up to more than \$60 billion in damages.

Some less populated places also suffered the consequences of a warming world. In Siberia, a heat wave during the first half of the year set a record in the city of Verkhoyansk, with temperatures reaching 38°C. A few months later, on the other side of the world, heat and drought drove the fires in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. While there were no human casualties reported from these events, the destruction of these areas has a great impact on biodiversity and the planet's capacity to respond to a warmer world.

Christian Aid says that: "These extreme events highlight the need for urgent climate action. The Paris Agreement, which set the goal of keeping temperature rise 'well below' 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, has just turned five years old. It is critical that countries commit to bold new targets ahead of the next climate conference, which will take place in Glasgow, in November 2021."

**Parish Pump**



## SUDOKU

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8			5				7	2
		9	2	4		3		
	5							
		3	7	1	5	2		
							5	
		8		7	9	5		
2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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## REBEC?

You asked what does a Rebec look like?  
Like an early medieval **voilin**...

*(sometimes rebecha, rebeckha, and other spellings, pronounced /'ri:bɛk/ or /'rɛbɛk/) is a bowed stringed instrument of the Medieval era and the early Renaissance. In its most common form, it has a narrow boat-shaped body and 1-5 strings. Played on the arm or under the chin, the technique and tuning may have influenced the development of the violin.*

**ED**

© (Wikipedia)

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## SERVICES

Our worship in church is subject to the Covid rules and Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please understand our plans may change with little notice.

We are open for individual 'Prayer Time' during the tightest lockdown restrictions, and 'Service Time' under Tier 3, often using Zoom video conference as well.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service.

We usually send a paper based service by email or post for use outside the sanctuary.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota system. Readers often Zoom in or perhaps read in church from one of the three different lecterns.

Date	7 FEB	14 FEB	21 FEB	28 FEB
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Sandy Smith	Simple Service	Bernie Stevens
Reader				
Elder Duty				
Notes	5th after Epiphany	6th after Epiphany	1st in Lent	Holy Communion

## CHURCH REGISTERS - FUNERAL

JANE LOGAN MURKIN "JEAN" who died on 20 December 2021, aged 98 yrs, at Cheadle Hulme URC and Stockport Crematorium on 8 January 2021

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## HUMOUR, but not much...

**Student protester** on the Titanic... "This crisis is made up by the lifeboat industry. You can't make me abandon ship! **I have rights!**"

**A Zoom meeting** is like a modern séance...

...Is there anybody there? ...Elizabeth can you hear us?

## Dressed

During my surgical residency I was called out of a sound sleep to the emergency room. Unshaven and with tousled hair, I showed up with an equally un-presentable medical student. In A&E we encountered the on-call medical resident and his student, both neatly attired in clean white lab coats. The resident said to his student, "You can always tell the surgeons by their absolute disregard for appearance."

Two evenings later, I was at a banquet when called back to A&E for another emergency. I was stitching away, wearing my dinner jacket, when I encountered that same medical resident. He looked at me, then said to his student, "Sure is sensitive to criticism, isn't he?"

## Chain vicars

If you are unhappy with your vicar, simply have your churchwarden send a copy of this letter to six other churches who are also tired of their vicar.

Then bundle up your vicar and send him to the church on the top of your list. Within a week you will receive 16,435 vicars. One of them should be all right!

Have **faith** in this chain letter for vicars. One church broke the chain – and got their old vicar back!

*(From a Salisbury Theological College leaflet)*

# THE AGES OF LIFE

## *1 Old Age*

On the outside: why so faded,  
Colours chipped and hair awry?  
Ageing's price has been exacted,  
Hope extinguished, love gone by.

## *2 Middle Age*

Halfway there with lines appearing,  
Self-help books are piling high.  
Dreams still beckon; future yearning,  
Life has not yet passed me by.

## *3 Adolescence*

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;  
Health and vigour promise more  
Every passion lurks, so tempting  
All sensations to the fore.

## *4 Childhood*

Child amazement, world untested;  
Safely kept in others' care.  
Now emerging, trusting, fearless  
Stain-free soul to taste the air.

## *5 Moral*

Cast off now your stubborn pride.  
Liberate the child inside.

***By John Barton***  
(See Matthew 18:3)

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## TRIBUTE TO TOM HARKER

We reported last month that sadly Tom had died on 16 DEC. His funeral was held on 4 JAN in Cumbria and, as part of the family tribute taking into account Tom's teaching time at Cheadle Hulme School from 1957 to 1988 when he retired as Head of Science, his sons, Andrew and Jonathan wrote a school report for him:

### Tom Harker Class of 28:

Science	A	A real strength, Dad shared his love of the applied sciences with us, his colleagues, and 1,000's of others during his 31 yrs, as Andrew mentioned, as a teacher at Cheadle Hulme School.
Physical Education	A	Dad showed little interest in team sports, but his passion for walking in the Lakeland fells has been an inspiration to many, both young and old.
Art	A	A gifted photographer, who grasped three eras of media (black and white, colour and latterly digital). Although always sadly preferring to be behind the camera rather than in front.
Information Technology	B	An early adopter of the Sinclair pocket calculator, and recently an avid convert to his iPad and I understand, one of the few people since Victorian times who could work the church heating system.
Domestic Science (Food Technology for those under 40)	C	Not one of Dad's strengths. But he redeemed himself and ate well for 62 years by marrying Mum.
Media Studies	D	A lack of interest in television pervaded the Harker household. To this day Andrew and I both have a hopeless knowledge of TV programmes from our childhood (apart from Blue Peter and Tomorrow's World)
Drama	E	No one has ever seen Dad make a drama out of anything!

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