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# HotPott

February 2022



*Pott Shrigley's Church & Parish Magazine*



Carols  
Outdoors

# David's Deliberations

Dear friends,

During the recent festive season, Kim took her mother and sister to the pantomime. It was her first such visit for many years and for everyone present, the cast included, it must have been a welcome return to this traditional seasonal entertainment.

Panto isn't to everyone's taste: but there is something about the coming together, the participation, the shared silliness, which many find an enjoyable and life-affirming experience. For a short time, this group of disparate individuals and families form a sort of community, sharing in the roller coaster journey of the story and joined together by the rituals and traditions of the genre.

This is just one example of a fundamental human need: the need to gather, to be 'community'. During the pandemic we realise just how important this is; how much we lose when we are unable to meet and gather with others.

And yet for many years now, community, coming together, has been diminishing in our society: people less willing to get involved in shared organisations and endeavours; a retreat into

our own private worlds, as our homes and networks become the primary venue for leisure and entertainment, and as organisations struggle to attract active and committed members.



**David Swales**

The church, of course, is not untouched by this phenomenon; declining attendances are well-documented. Nevertheless, in comparison with many groups in society, over the years it has bucked the trend, in some places being the only remaining community group.

Not surprising, perhaps, since 'gathering' is in the church's DNA: the Bible's Greek word for church, *ekklesia*, means 'a gathering'.

It is perhaps for this very reason that recent events have had quite an impact on the church. Two things we did at St Christopher's at the start of the pandemic were to keep our church open every day and to livestream our services. Both of these ensured that, even when people couldn't meet together, they could still have a very real connection with the church – through a moment of private prayer in the building or through joining with others virtually in worship. These have proved an immense blessing – a lifeline for many – and so we

*continued →*

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have continued with both into the present, even though we have also maintained live services. However, they do have the nature of individualised, private experiences – lacking that face-to-face interaction with others, and my hope is that, in the coming days, many who have got out of the habit of making their way to St Christopher’s on a Sunday will get back into it again!

At the centre of the church is not an idea, nor an aim – but a person. Or, as we like to say: ‘Christianity isn’t a religion: it’s a relationship’ – with Jesus. When people meet with Him, they want to come together with others who know Him too; ‘coming to church’ becomes

a need, not a duty. And when they offer their gifts and abilities in the life of the church, it’s not the tired old ‘appeal for volunteers’, falling on deaf ears, but a willing response to the Lord who calls us to follow and to serve Him.

Christian faith begins when a person meets Jesus Christ and responds to Him. But does Jesus want our faith to stay only a private matter between Him and us? *Oh no He doesn’t!* Does He want us to be a people coming together, a community... His Church?

*Oh yes He does!*

Your friend and vicar,

David

## It was good to be back..

It was lovely to be able to hold the Christingle service with the church family actually in St Christopher’s building this year – unlike during the lockdown of 2020!

The sight of the candles shining in the darkness reminded us of Jesus, the Light of the World, and that if we follow Him we will never walk in darkness.

And there was no repeat of Naomi Lloyd’s attempt to set her pigtails on fire when she was too busy chatting to her friend whilst holding her lit Christingle about 40 years ago, nor any toddlers with burnt fingers when their

parents were not watching carefully enough (sorry Alex!). Not that I know of anyway.



Thank you to John & Liz Arrowsmith who organised the collection, to all those who made the Christingles, and to those who made donations to The Children’s Society: a total of £194.94 was collected. The money will be used to improve the lives of more than half a million vulnerable children

across the UK, spreading Christ’s light into some very dark corners of our country by alleviating poverty and neglect.

\* \* \*

*A vicar was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn’t think of their names. So he said: “Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?”*

*Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.*

# But where was Dali?

As regular members of our congregation will know, lingering inside church after services has been discouraged of late (that dreaded pandemic again!). However, God has often arranged the weather so we have been able to talk to each other in the churchyard instead. But what to do about Christmas cards?

## Duncan Matheson

For many years it has been the habit to distribute Christmas cards to our friends by leaving them at the back of church. The snag is that this often results in a small crowd forming there, ideal for the spreading of viruses. So this year another solution was required.

It was suggested that we needed a distributor: Postman Will Gem rose to the challenge, not only collecting everyone's cards, sorting them and then giving them out to the correct recipients at the end of each service, but also making his own magnificent post box and donning a Santa hat. We did wonder if he would recruit the Gem moggy, Dali, too – after



all, every postman needs a black and white cat.

Apparently Dali preferred to snooze by the fire.

Sensible creature.

Thank you, Will, for your sterling work.

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### Church Bulletin Bloopers

*The youth group has raised almost \$500 for drug abuse.*

*Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'*

*The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.*

*Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'*

# PCC Ponderings

November 2021, and time for our last meeting of the calendar year; unfortunately, a number of our members were unable to make it, including our vicar David Swales, but this did enable us to have a discussion about how to take care of our clergy, as raised at the latest deanery synod meeting – more on this later.

First up, after our usual prayers to begin, was discussion around our church building, with two main topics to pull out here. Firstly, one which hopefully many of you have seen, is that the work on our new easy-access pathway by the lychgate has started; the PCC discussed ways to keep locals informed and to minimize disruption. The second thing to highlight here is something that you hopefully haven't noticed: a persistent leak which necessitated an inspection and repair to our roof on the north side of the church. The repair was successful, but the inspection suggests there may be a bigger job required in the next few years to re-lay the slabs on the roof.

Next up the vicar's report, in absentia, focused on two things to be decided. We agreed in principle to take an active part in *Festival Manchester* ([www.festivalmanchester.com](http://www.festivalmanchester.com)) but have put a subgroup together to look in more detail as what this involvement will look like. The other request from the vicar was to agree the Christmas services, which hopefully you all managed to enjoy either in person or virtually; I personally had a lovely time at the Carols by Starlight service and thought

it a great success.

Shortly before our PCC meeting, the church had the pleasure of a visit from Archdeacon Ian Bishop. David Gem presented a summary of the meeting which was, overall, a very positive affair. Interesting points to come out of this included a desire to understand what the diocese can do to support our church better and a request to the church to carefully consider sustainability aspects, both when we are replacing things and more generally.

A few Hotpotts back you may recollect me mentioning a legacy giving fund, looking to proactively use a chunk of the legacies previously given to the church to support a specific Christian project. The committee looking into this has managed to whittle a number of ideas suggested for this down to two, with a final decision expected at our meeting later in January – watch this space!



## Chris Day



With the pandemic still occupying our thoughts, the PCC must still balance the desire for the congregation to get the most out of our time worshipping together with minimising the risk as much as possible. The latest discussion centred on serving of refreshments inside church; despite fully understanding the desire for people to increase the social side of worship at church, the PCC was aware of the (then) current rapid surge in COVID cases, so decided that we should not yet be encouraging indoors social interaction (which is the main purpose of having a cuppa after the service!). As always, the vicar, church wardens and PCC will continue to monitor the situation and how we as a church react to it.

As noted at the start of these Ponderings, the update provided to the PCC from the latest deanery synod encouraged us to consider the impact felt by our vicar, both from a physical and pastoral sense, of the stresses that his work can have. As such the wardens have taken this away to discuss how to set up this open dialogue with David Swales, understanding where we can help out and where it is not within our powers.



## Happy New Year from all at Pott Shrigley School: exciting times ahead!

We're all back at school and ready for a new year and a new term. Our Friday afternoons will now be spent at Substation, the climbing and yoga centre in Macclesfield. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first session where they were briefed on climbing safety, equipped with tips and techniques and encouraged to follow their chosen colour route to scale the walls.

The yoga sessions were equally well received, a time for gentle stretches and mindful moments with Milena, the children's specialist yoga teacher. All in all, a pretty much perfect end to our first week back!

We've an exciting term ahead with topics including local art, space and Judaism, so watch this space for updates...



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# Lowering the tone...

Our singing group just seems to get better and better every year. From small beginnings when we had our first Carols by Candlelight services all those years ago it has developed and improved no end. This year I thought it was time to buck the trend. Besides when I was at prep school the choir was treated to an excellent tea at the end of each term – much better than the mostly inedible victuals we were usually served – so who knew? Perhaps this happened to the St Christopher's Singing Group too. So, buoyed by this thought I went along and offered my services. Much to my surprise, Sheila welcomed me to the group. I don't think she had ever heard me sing. Practices were arranged to alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays so those with other regular commitments on those evenings could come and join in the fun.

By the time it came to the actual services,

Sheila was far too polite to sack me so I was placed as far away as possible, strategically tucked away behind Geoff so that his dulcet tones would disguise any dissonant noises made by yours truly. *The editor was also grateful that her vocal efforts were disguised*

*by being stood next to Phillip Curtis, who made his usual magnificent contribution. The first*

service, Carols by Candlelight, was held inside for those of our congregation who might struggle to stand outside in the cold for 40 minutes. The other two services, Carols by Starlight, took place in the churchyard, with the words projected onto the church wall. Cold, but everyone was encouraged to wrap up well, including (I hope) wearing earmuffs.

After such brilliant instruction under Sheila's expert guidance, it was only right that our performances were not limited to just three services. So as a preliminary to our church carol service, several of us trooped off to Prestbury House to join David Swales and his colleague Rev James Gibson, vicar of Hurdfield, in singing carols with the residents. And the choir finished off with a trip up to Shrigley Hall on Christmas Eve to sing in the foyer. I suspected the clientele would have rather more discerning ears so I gave that one a miss.

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## Duncan Matheson

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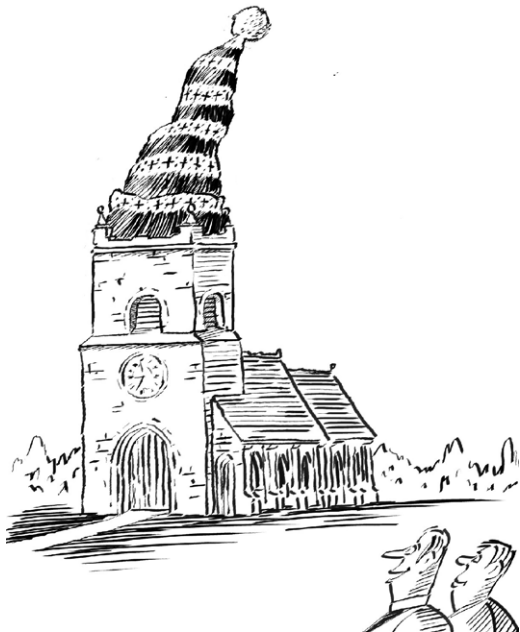




Thank you, Sheila, for providing the inspiration and for drumming us all into shape; musical thanks are also due to David Garton, the brass band and other instrumentalists and to all the members of the singing group. Thank you, David and Anne, for leading the services, to all the readers of lessons, to the tech team, the welcomers, the candle lighters, the flower arranger, the tree decorators, the bellringers and to everyone else I've forgotten to mention, especially the cleaner-uppers.

Carols by Candlelight as we knew it with a packed congregation was never going to work during Covid. But what a brilliant idea to have it outside: hearing afresh the story of our Lord and Saviour coming to earth to live amongst us and to rescue us whilst praising Him under the stars He created.

And what about that extra-special choir tea? We were amply rewarded for our efforts by delicious mince pies and mulled wine; even better than I remember...



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."



*A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers?'"*

*"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"*

*The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."*

## The Coffee Tavern

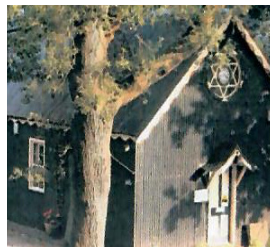
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# Remembering Michael Geoffrey Hart...

The village community was saddened to hear of Michael's death on 6th December 2021; he was 82 years old. Michael was a stalwart of the cricket club who, together with his late wife Margaret, worked tirelessly for the good of the club. Much more than that, Michael was one of nature's gentlemen and a loving family man.

Michael was born in Hazel Grove in June 1939, weighing in at over 10 pounds.

Apparently, the midwife threw him on the bed and said: 'He'll be alright.' And so he was: he grew to be well over six feet tall, had a hefty build and size 12 feet, with big hands and a big heart.

Michael had two older sisters, Felicity and Valerie, and a younger brother, Robin. He had a happy, secure childhood; he enjoyed playing outside in the countryside and had an inquisitive nature. One of his experiments had uncomfortable results: he discovered the conductivity of water by weeing on an electric fence. He didn't do it again!

Michael remembered listening to his mother, Muriel, reading stories and reciting poetry; his build made him an ideal Sir Toby Belch in a school production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Michael won the first prize, a wild flower book, for making the largest collection of wild flowers and his love of the natural world stayed with him throughout his life. He even chose rotting sprout stalks from a compost heap as weapons to fight with – not such a good outcome as he got the cane!

Out of school, Michael enjoyed trainspotting and had a large model train layout; he always enjoyed a family trip to a steam railway and volunteered on the Ffestiniog railway for a

time. Michael enjoyed sport, playing cricket for Norbury, then Bramhall and Pott Shrigley (of which more later); he was in the second row at Davenport Rugby Club too.



Professionally, Michael was a surveyor and auctioneer; in his early career he worked at the cattle market on Brabyn's Brow in Marple Bridge whilst undertaking professional studies and qualifications at night school. He established his own surveying and estate agency in 1983 in Poynton and subsequently Bollington. Michael's dealings in business were caring and considerate, and people appreciated his honesty and practical help

– even to the extent of assisting a tenant by cutting their hedge.

Michael met his future wife Margaret at two successive dances for the cricket and rugby clubs. After a long courtship, he proposed marriage on the steamy window of his Austin 10, Connie the 'Conway Flyer'. They were married at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodsmoor and lived in Hazel Grove, where they had four children: Sarah, Andrew, Jamie and Penny. In 1974 they moved to Lyme View, Pott Shrigley, where the family grew up with plenty of love and space to play, garden and laugh. The family made great use of the surrounding countryside, taking their dogs – initially Toby (possibly of Belch fame!), then Tig and Harry – on long walks. Michael also indulged his farming inclinations by keeping the family well supplied with eggs from the garden hens and vegetables from his very large vegetable plot.

He enjoyed all aspects of gardening, being ably assisted by Margaret and various other



President's Day 1984

family members. Michael enjoyed mowing his lawns, and whilst doing tasks in the garden, and whilst shaving, he was given to shouting out random phrases and singing. The favoured shaving mantra was 'Friday today, Saturday tomorrow': still quoted every day by eldest grandson, Joe, in Hong Kong. 'O for the Wings of a Dove' was one of the garden songs, sung in a falsetto choirboy's voice.

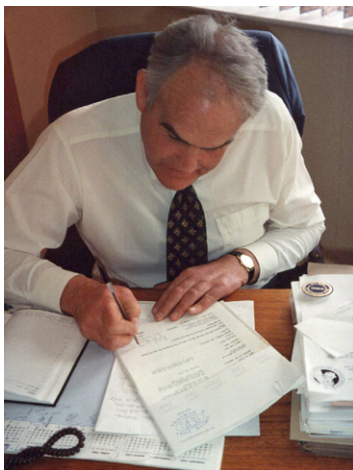
Michael was a strong leader and creative contributor to local organisations and nowhere was this more evident than at Pott Shrigley Cricket Club (PSCC). Michael played for the club and joined the committee in 1984, becoming chairman in 1987; the ensuing years brought cricketing success but some extremely challenging issues off the field. Michael remained calm, determined and courteous throughout difficult times. 1995 saw a major achievement when, after many years of negotiation with the parish council, PSCC purchased the cricket field, giving them far more autonomy. He and Margaret, whose cricket teas and Bonfire

Night parkin and treacle toffee were famous, continued to support the club for as long as they were able.

Michael was a very sociable, hospitable man, whether enjoying real ale with his friends or, with Margaret, entertaining at home. He had a great sense of fun and devised eccentric party games, including 'Blind Crate', which involved someone in a home-made go-cart being pushed around inside the house by someone who was blindfolded! He was also the instigator of the 'Nab Witches', who dropped from Nab Wood into the Pott bonfire in 1998; their progress was impeded by a Force 9 southerly, though one made a brave attempt to entertain the crowd by bursting into flames and dropping out of the sky. Surprisingly Nab Wood still stands.

First and foremost, Michael was a family man; he supported Margaret through her last illness, making innumerable visits to The Christie over five years until she died in 2015. They had been married for over 50 years. Grandchildren Joe, Alfie, Alex, Rosa, Rory, Dougie, Adam and Isabelle, and later great grandchildren Jasper and Jasmine all enjoyed Michael's love and care.

It was a privilege to know Michael, and he will be much missed. May he rest in peace.



Signing cricket field contract



VE day anniversary celebrations

## 1492: ‘... all things that I will have done in a Chapple of my foundation called Downes Chapple in Pott Shrigley..’

In the summer of 1492 Geoffrey Downes made his will. He was probably only in his sixties but death was on his mind, as it often was for many living at that time.

Bubonic plague (the Black Death) had reached England in 1348 and it was not a one-off event: the plague flared up with horrifying regularity during the following 150 years and there had been recent and virulent outbreaks in the 1470s. The violence of the

wars with France and of the dynastic struggle of what we now call the Wars of the Roses, which together occupied much of the 15th century, had taken their own toll on the male population. It is estimated that at the battle of Towton in 1461 28,000 men were killed. Over 5% of the entire population of men of military age in England lost their lives there in a single afternoon; a disproportionately large number of these casualties were combatants from Cheshire.

All this was in an age when many common infections were untreatable and fatal; periodic food shortages led to malnutrition and levels of social violence and murder were high (Cheshire being a notoriously lawless county). Current estimates are that the population of England fell by more than a half between 1340 (4.8 million) and 1490 (less than 2 million).

This was the world in which Geoffrey Downes



Black death

had grown up. Making sense of mortality on this scale, and relating it to religious understanding and to the personal piety and Christian devotion that were hallmarks of England in the late Middle Ages, occupied the minds and souls of many such as Geoffrey. How lay people might come together in

### Paul Bowden

mutual support to prepare for death and for their relationship with God beyond death, and how the living might intercede with God for the salvation of those who were no longer living, had become, more than ever, pressing questions. One response to them was the practice and the institution of ‘the chantry’.

Coming from the Old French ‘chanter’ and the Latin ‘cantare’ (to sing), the chantry, at its most basic, meant an act of worship (often in the form of a sung Mass for the Dead) in which God was asked to grant the souls of the dead forgiveness for their sins and, ultimately, salvation. But the chantry also meant a sacred space set aside for these special acts of worship. It could be a small area or an altar, usually dedicated to a particular saint, located in a parish church or cathedral and was reserved for the performance of chantry duties undertaken by a chantry priest appointed for this purpose. It could also be an entirely new and separate building constructed by a lay benefactor on private land to be used exclusively as a chantry.

Whatever situation and size a chantry might have, its creation required money. This might come from wealthy people, like Geoffrey Downes, or through local communities clubbing together in ‘fraternities’ or religious guilds to which they paid subscriptions and through which, as ‘Brothers and Sisters’ of the fraternity, they played a communal and active role in the upkeep and embellishment of the

chantry and in the worship that took place there.

Geoffrey Downes' will of 1492 concerns the establishing of such a chantry in Pott Shrigley, as remote and unlikely a place as this may have seemed.

Geoffrey's will speaks of it as 'a chapple of my foundation called Downes Chapple in Pott Shrigley'.

Things were not, however, quite so simple: there was already a chapel at Pott and it had been there for at least a hundred years before Geoffrey made his will. It was the forerunner of today's parish church of St Christopher and parts of its 14th century structure can be seen today in the nave, north aisle and chancel.

The origins of this older chapel are unknown. It may have been founded by earlier members of the Downes family, the principle local family, on their land, as a chapel of ease for their use and that of their tenants and servants. The chapel was in Prestbury Parish and is likely to have been served by priests from St Peter's, Prestbury, one of whom, possibly, being appointed priest-in-charge of the Pott chapel. We do not know the name of the saint, if any, to which this chapel of ease was first dedicated. There is an enticing thought that it was then, as today, dedicated to St Christopher. Of the two bells attributed to the London master founder, Robert Crouch

(or Crouch), which still hang in the tower, one bears the inscription Sancte Xtophore Ora Pro Nobis (Pray for us St Christopher); this bell was cast circa

1439, before the chapel became a chantry and before Geoffrey was even born. Crouch is known to have travelled the country and to have cast many of his bells on site – and that he may have done at Pott, using charcoal from the surrounding woods or coal that was already being drift-mined by the Downes from local outcrops on their estate. It may, however, be that this bell was made elsewhere and was brought to Pott at a later date. This may all be coincidental. What is clear is that in 1472 the chapel of ease at Pott was known as Our Lady of Downes Chapel and was dedicated to Mary.

Geoffrey was already personally invested in the chapel at that time, 20 years before his will and the foundation of his chantry. There is a legal document, dated 12 October 1472, recording the loan of 20 sheep belonging to the Pott chapel to a local family, the Addesheds; Geoffrey was a party to this agreement and appears to have arranged it for the benefit of the chapel.

The chapel was to be paid an annual share of the profits from the flock. Interestingly, this document refers to the chapel being run by 'wardens' – no doubt Geoffrey himself and members of his family.

So, the creation of the chantry at Pott Shrigley in 1492 has the appearance of a rather unusual 'merger and acquisition' by which Geoffrey converted the old family chapel into a chantry with himself as the new founder and principal benefactor.

The architectural history of St Christopher's reveals that, at some time around 1490, Geoffrey also undertook a major rebuilding scheme and makeover of the old chapel



4th bell



Enlargement of inscription on 4th bell

*continued →*



15th century requiem of ease to create what, by any standards, was a physical chantry of some size and magnificence. These works included the reconstruction of the chancel and nave roof, the construction of the present tower and, most importantly, the addition of the south aisle.

It is not clear whether the entire building was repurposed for the performance of the chantry duties set out in Geoffrey's will, or whether only a part of the building comprised the chantry. Evidence points to it being the latter and that the new south aisle, housing an altar of Our Lady decorated with images of Mary and St John, was built specifically to serve as the chantry. There are references to just this one altar in Geoffrey's will. An

architectural survey in 1907 indicated that the south aisle had once been screened off from the rest of the interior and was accessed through a separate door where the church porch and south door now stand.

The picture is one of the south aisle of the present day St Christopher's having been, at least initially, the chantry proper and, effectively, a 'chapel within a chapel'. If this were the case, the ceremony and worship in the chantry would have coexisted with the regular forms of worship and meeting of the old chapel of ease, as these would have continued in the pre-existing parts of the church building. The whole building, however, which Geoffrey had spent a great deal on renovating, and the tower and its bells, would have been vital to the day-to-day workings of the chantry.

How the chantry would have operated and how it changed community life in Pott Shrigley are topics that we will explore in the next in this series of articles. We will also be taking a look into the life of Geoffrey Downes and the fascinating characters, local and national, around him, whose money, piety and sense of mortality created the late-medieval chantry which is part of our history and of where we, the continuing Christian community in Pott Shrigley, have come from.



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# The Tearfund BIG QUIZ Night 2021

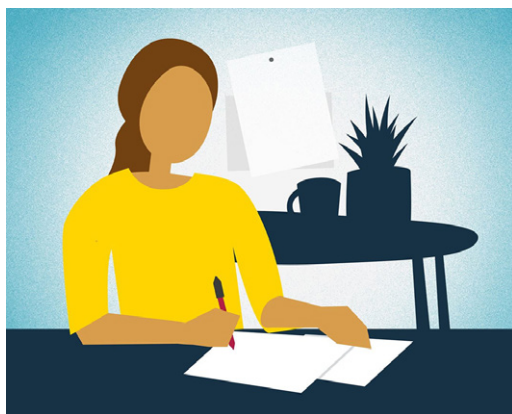
After last year's torrid Matheson performance in the ever-popular Big Tearfund Quiz, we changed tactics for the 2021 extravaganza. Aided and abetted by the advent of a plentiful (those were the days) supply of lateral flow tests and more relaxed meeting-up rules, we invited those of our friends who knew obscure facts about TV programmes, music, sport and multifarious other topics to tea. Others gathered too, not only in Pott and environs, but from as far afield as darkest Shropshire and snow-covered Austria; eight teams in all joining up with over 6,600 other quizzers from 203 churches around the world.

Anne was our delectable quiz master for the evening, all those excellent classroom skills she possesses being put to good use in keeping us all in order; under her eagle eye an excellent evening ensued. We learnt more of Tearfund's life changing work in Burkina Faso, where Abigail is a 35-year-old farmer and mother of five. She described how in recent years, rains have become so scarce that she and her husband can't grow the food needed to feed their family or make sufficient income, meaning they

cannot afford to send their children to school or pay for the regular health care required by one of them. Help arrived in the form of a project run by Tearfund's local partner working alongside local churches; this brings community members together into farming cooperatives where they are given training in sustainable farming, along with the seeds and tools to grow crops that are more resistant to drought. Since they joined the project, Abigail and her husband have been able to feed their family and pay for their child's treatment, which is great news but there is much more to be done: around 80 per cent of people in Burkina Faso rely on farming for food and income, yet because of the changing climate, one in ten are now going hungry and need emergency help. The 2021 Tearfund Big Quiz raised £124,452 nationally, with Pott Shrigley contributing £492 to the total – but there's much more to be done to alleviate poverty so please feel free to contribute more! <http://www.tearfund.org/give>

Modesty prevents me from naming the winners, but perhaps there was some leniency in the marking...

Many thanks to Anne for organising us all. Looking forward to the 2022 Quiz already!



# Your Vote Your Council

## Highways

### New/Updated/Completed issues

- Flooding outside Pott Hall: investigations have not located the fault yet so it will be necessary to dig up the road when all permissions are in place. If the blockage cannot be cleared, a new pipe will be installed.
- Traffic lights near Cedar Lodge: the work is scheduled to start February 23rd for a period of five weeks.
- Non-gritting of Shrigley Road, weekend of 27/28th November: the operative responsible for missing it has been spoken to.
- Double yellow lines on the Pott Hall and Spuley Lane bends: waiting for proposals from the Cheshire East Council (CEC) traffic engineer.

### Pending

- 'Chevron bend' near Shrigley Hall: two large holes remain in the wall following an accident.
- Modifications to the 'chevron bend': the clerk has asked for an update but has not received a response.
- Remedial resurfacing of Shrigley Road from Green Close to the aqueduct.
- Stones are missing from the base of the wall at the side of the bridge on Bakestonedale Road.
- Road surface of Long Lane between Nab Quarry and Shrigley Road.
- Fingerpost at junction of Street Lane and London Road.

## Village Green Maintenance

The parish council are requested to pay for the petrol used to mow the village green next year: Cllr. Basford has purchased a mower

and is willing to do most of the cutting. The council unanimously agreed to pay petrol costs and thanked Cllr. Basford.

## Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)

New name is **North East Cheshire Community Partnerships**.

Copies of successful grant applications have been received to assist in completing the application form when seeking a grant. Cllr. Boulton explained that there had been four successful applications since September leaving £10,500 available with a further £8,000 expected from CEC in the new financial year.

## Christmas tree

The new site was welcomed by several people because of the increased visibility of the tree. The councillors discussed the possibility of buying a rooted Christmas tree and planting it on the site of the current tree in the church grounds. It would be necessary to continue to buy non-rooted trees while it was growing to an appropriate size.

## Planning

### Applications

*21/6042M* 11, Normans Hall Mews, SK10 5SE Proposal: Rear extension along the party wall boundary to give a garden room to each property. The parish council supports this application but would like to point out an ambiguity: the roof is described as blue in the application but grey on the plans. Either way, while the council applauds the attempt to retain the 'agricultural vernacular' and the effort to reuse materials, it feels that a steel roof of either colour is not appropriate for a residential building, whatever its former use, and does not fit in with the characteristics of the properties in the vicinity.



21/6312M Shrigley View, Shrigley Park Estate,  
Pott Shrigley, SK10 5SE

Proposal: Enclosure of existing external  
staircase, conversion of garage to living  
accommodation and single storey extension.  
The council supports this application.

The clerk pointed out that there is a planning  
application for a new agriculture barn at Park  
Moor Cottage, Moorside Lane. As it is in Lyme  
Handley, not Pott Shrigley, the council has  
not been asked to comment.

### Decisions

NP/CEC/0720/0690 Pott Hall Barn, SK10 5RT  
Approved with conditions. View decision  
notice online for more detailed information.

20/4189M near Wood Lane, Adlington.  
Proposal: Creation of glamping site.  
Withdrawn.

### Pending

21/1251M: Nab Quarry, Long Lane, SK10 5SD  
Resubmission for the regularisation of  
warehouse storage buildings and demolition  
of existing shed and replacement with two  
storey office building.

21/1283M: Separate application for  
warehouse for MRI Polytech.

21/4435M Heatherdale Farm, Moorside Lane,  
SK10 5RZ

Proposal: Conversion of an existing  
agricultural barn to a single dwelling  
(resubmission of 20/3710M)

NP/CEC/0621/0623: Pott Mill Farm,  
Bakstonedale Road, SK10 5RU  
Proposal: Agricultural building to store fodder  
and implements.  
Enforcement Officer is waiting to see outcome  
of planning application so there is no conflict.

### Next meetings

The next meetings will take place at 8pm on  
7th February 2022 and 7th March 2022 in the  
village hall.

# Anna

*All those years in the temple,  
In waiting widowhood.*

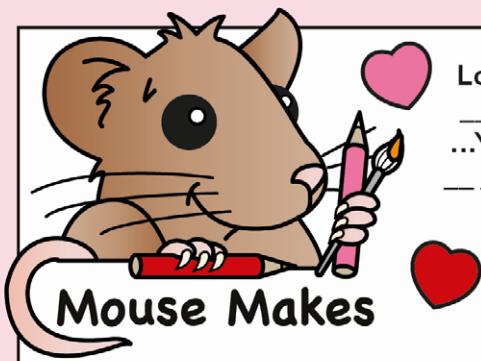
*All those years  
Worshipping, wondering,  
What had it all been about?  
Seven years of marriage  
Then this lifetime alone,*

*And yet  
There was this sense of purpose,  
Of Spirit-significance  
Impending,  
Then there he was,  
The child.  
And Simeon sang  
Of salvation and sorrow,  
Of rising and falling,  
Of light and loss,  
Of revelation and piercing.*

*I gazed at the child,  
Glimpsed the glory of God  
And gave thanks  
For the years.*

*(Luke 2:36-38)  
By Daphne Kitching*





# Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
 ...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 86:1



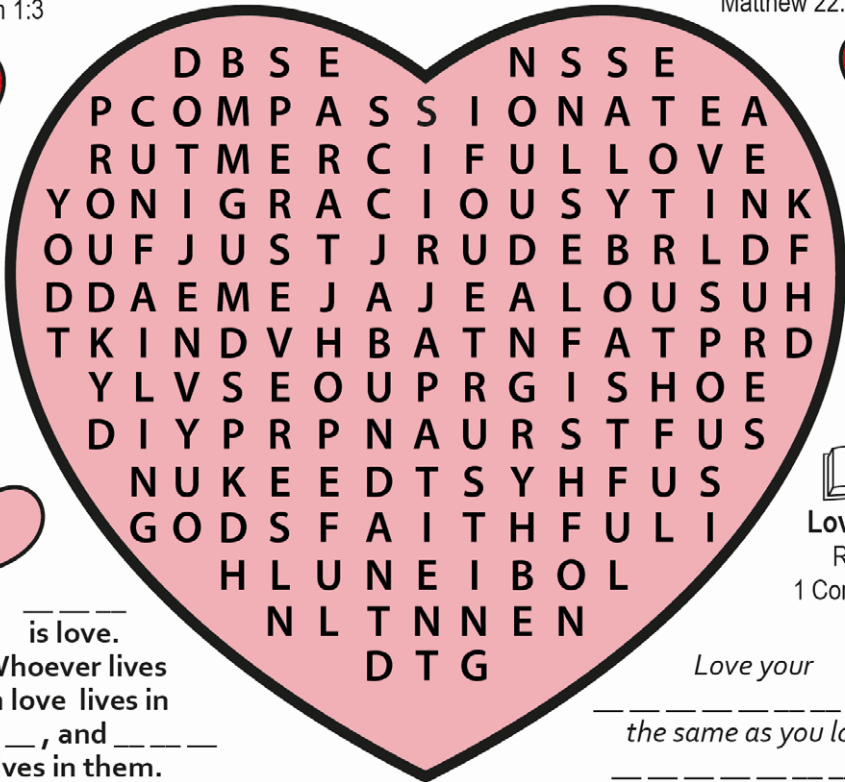
How did God show He **loved** us?  
 Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ and with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 22:37



Love is ..  
 Read  
 1 Cor 13:4-7

\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
 Whoever lives in love lives in \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

Love your

\_\_\_\_\_ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

## Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

## Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

## God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



# Coffee Break

## Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)

1		2			3		4		5		6	
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16												
17	18			19	20		21					
				22								23
24									25			
26							27					

- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

# The Suffering Church

As I think how blessed we are in the UK to be able to meet freely for worship and to a large extent live out our Christian lives publicly, and as I worry about our brothers and sisters in Christ in so many countries being persecuted for their faith and missing out on so many of the joys of living, it strikes me as amazing that in some of these situations the church is actually growing! Unfortunately, in **Iran** the estimated 1,000,000 converts from Islam are the main target for government persecution: a strategy of arresting new converts then releasing them soon afterwards appears designed to encourage new Christians to leave Iran voluntarily.



Four of the acquitted Christian converts, Iran; Barnabas

In November 2021, eight Christian converts accused of 'propaganda activities in favour of anti-regime groups' were acquitted. In this significant

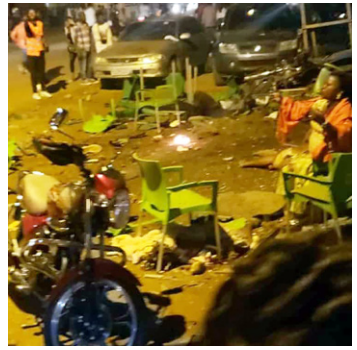
ruling, the judge concluded that whilst conversion from Islam is against Islamic law (sharia) and therefore, in his opinion, punishable in the afterlife, it is not a criminal offence under Iran's Islamic penal code. The court also accepted that the men 'did not carry out any propaganda activities with groups opposed to the regime and are subject to the holy system of the Islamic Republic'. Whilst this ruling is encouraging, it is of huge concern that at least 20 Christians are either serving prison sentences in Iran or living in enforced internal exile having been charged for simply practising their faith.

Many extremists see Christmas as a prime

opportunity to persecute Christians as they gather in large numbers to celebrate the birth of Christ, both in church and elsewhere, thus inadvertently making themselves targets for terrorist attacks and other violence. Additionally, some religious extremists see Christmas and other Christian festivals as the ideal time to strike a blow against Christians. Some countries, such as **Indonesia**, allocate extra security personnel to churches and other Christian sites at these times but in others state forces perpetrate violence against Christians. In Buddhist-majority **Myanmar** the charred bodies of at least 35 civilians shot by army troops were found in a village in a predominantly Christian area on Christmas Day. Two of the victims worked for the charity Save the Children, which has since suspended its operations in the region; their spokesman explained: 'The military forced people from their cars, arrested some, killed many and burnt the bodies.' Unsurprisingly, Christmas celebrations in the affected village were muted. A church leader said: 'We all had tears in our eyes. We couldn't say, "Merry Christmas" anymore. Christmas was very dark for us; the presence of the burned bodies was there around us.' Meanwhile, in Christian-majority Chin State the Myanmar military carried out further shelling on the deserted town of Thantlang; even though the town's population of 10,000 has long since



Village where bodies were found, Myanmar; Sky news



Christmas in Indonesia 2; Daily Mail

Church in Assam, India; the Guardian

Bombed Restaurant, DRC; the Guardian

evacuated, Thantlang has been bombarded repeatedly, with two churches being destroyed in December.

Churches and Christian schools in **India** suffered a greater number of Christmas attacks in 2021 than in recent years, indicating the increased hatred and violence towards Christians from extremist sections of Indian society. A church leader in Madhya Pradesh said: 'Every Sunday is a day of terror and trauma for Christians, especially those belonging to those small churches.' He was speaking after a Christmas event was disrupted by radical Hindutva extremists shouting: 'Stop conversions' and 'Death to missionaries'. Elsewhere in India, extremists disrupted an event in a Christian school which they claimed was 'religious conversion under the garb of celebrating Christmas'. Christian members of staff were accused of 'brainwashing children through drama and speeches into accepting Christianity'. A similar incident took place in Bengaluru (Bangalore), which has suffered a spate of extremist incidents linked to false accusations of unlawful conversions. Acts of intimidation were also reported outside Christian schools in Agra and Uttar Pradesh and at churches in Assam and Punjab.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, eight people died (including two children and the perpetrator) and more than 20 were injured when a crowded restaurant

was bombed on Christmas Day. The town's mayor urged residents to go home for their own safety, saying that investigations to find those responsible for the attack were underway. No one has claimed responsibility for the incident, but local military officials blamed the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist group with links to Islamic State forces and considered to be the deadliest of the militia active in the region.

The church in **South Sudan**, a Christian country, needs help. The 10 percent Moslem minority of the population is reported to hold undue influence and attacks on South Sudanese Christians in villages along the



Aid from Barnabas for South Sudan; Barnabas

*continued →*

disputed border by Islamist extremists from Moslem-majority Sudan in the north are increasing, causing great suffering. In early January 2022 at least 28 people were killed and 57 houses burned down in Christian village Yith Pabol. The local bishop reported: 'Massive displacement has happened, and the humanitarian situation is alarming as food and other property have been burned down into ashes, leaving survivors with no shelter, no food and no safe drinking water.' Many Christian villagers have nothing but the clothes they stand up in so tents, clothing, medicines and, especially, food and safe

drinking water are urgently needed. Local communities in South Sudan are helping their Christian brothers and sisters but have few resources themselves. South Sudanese armed forces have been deployed to the region to try to maintain the peace.

Please pray for all those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ and consider giving to organisations such as Open Doors or Barnabas who work to relieve their suffering.

*Barnabas is acknowledged as the source of the above information.*

## Missionary Matters

As the COVID situation in Thailand was improving dramatically, **Johnny and Ann McClean** and their children Bethan and Joshua left Thailand in mid-December to spend Christmas in England with their other son Matthew and Ann's widowed dad: their first Christmas in the UK since 2010!

### John Ryley

Their required two-day initial isolation was spent at a Christian conference centre in Bala, but as all four of them went down with COVID immediately, they had to stay there till December 27th, the day of their planned return to Thailand. They delayed their return by three days so they could spend time with Ann's dad and Matthew in Loughborough but were then denied flights because Thailand required negative PCR tests after COVID for re-entry into the country. Friends in Birmingham came to the rescue for two days, after which Carey Baptist Church in Reading offered three months' accommodation in their (fortunately empty!) missionary house. They also got a mission car, and a friend of one of their supporters offered to pay for PCR tests (cost: £300 for the family each time) until they all

got negative results. Johnny arranged for people in Thailand to cover his preaching commitments, and he planned to do other things online. School for Ann (who teaches) and the children started on January 10th, which meant them being online from 00.45 till 07.30 UK time. For one of her classes Ann had one pupil in England, one in Kuwait, another sick with flu/COVID in Bangkok and 12 in the actual classroom at school: truly international teaching! On the 13th all four PCR tests came back negative. Emirates are not charging for the re-arranged tickets, and as I write, the family are due to fly back on January



Bala christian conference centre



Macleans

from university in Belfast on December 19th, but with Christmas plans in COVID disarray, he took the opportunity to see some of the London sights before spending Christmas in Wales with a friend's family prior to joining his own family for their three days in Loughborough – but then he tested positive for COVID too! It's so good that in all the disruption, the disappointment of precious family plans being thwarted, that we have a God who is unchanging, who is our rock and shelter, and who works all things to the good for those who love Him. On a different note, the Afghan Christian refugees the McCleans have supported over a long period and through many difficulties, are getting barista training from another Christian friend in anticipation of obtaining work when they get to Australia; this week it is Americano and latte tuition! They are all vaccinated against COVID now too. Pray they may be allowed and enabled to go to Australia soon.

A brief letter from **Megumi and Helen Fazakerley** in Malawi reported their very quiet Christmas, enlivened however by a

20th, though this rather depends on several other administrative processes going to plan. In anticipation of spending Christmas with the family, Matthew flew to London

games evening via Zoom with the family in Australia, London and the Wirral, especially enjoyable as Megumi and Helen won! Then came the sad news that Helen's step-mum Ivy died on January 5th in her care home on the Wirral; Helen will be unable to travel home for the funeral. Please pray for the Fazakerley family, who have lost a precious wife, mum and nan. The SIM team in Malawi have been COVID-free for nearly two years, but now 10 of them have caught the virus; not apparently from a common source and in most cases with mild symptoms. Helen continues to monitor all health issues in the team. Megumi is now back at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi teaching in the Chichewa language for the next 15 weeks. The students are supposed to wear masks in class, but two aren't. Apparently, many people in Malawi think COVID affects only wealthy non-Africans, and regrettably many among the pastors are refusing vaccination because they believe that vaccines are for those who lack faith. This, together with other misinformation, has led to low uptake of the vaccine in Malawi, which is a risk to life, and led to hundreds of thousand of vaccines being wasted after arriving in the country. Please pray that the population will have ready access to correct information and that uptake will increase.



Fazakerley family zoom



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# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32


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He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..




So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..



Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...




How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?



When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!



In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..



than the 99 who don't need to repent.



Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin?

Wont she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?




That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.



It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.



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# From the Registers

## Baptisms

*We welcome into our church family:*

27th November Wilfred Lloyd Gadbury

16th January Henry Arthur Wainwright

16th January Elsie Jean Wainwright

## Forthcoming Weddings

*We wish them joy in their preparations:*

28th March Daryl Scott Henshaw & Chloe May Thorley

## Funerals

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of:*

2nd December Peter Gardiner

29th December Michael Geoffrey Hart

6th January Bridget Drabble

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# Recipe of the Month

## Hearty Lamb Ragù Gnocchi Bake

This is one of a series of winter recipes Chris kindly sent to me – tried and tested by her family many times. This is an all-in-one bake that's quick to make (about 35 minutes) and warming on a cold February day. Serves 4.

**Chris Bowes**

### Ingredients:

2 brown onions  
2 dried bay leaves  
160g baby leaf spinach  
500g gnocchi  
1 beef stock cube  
2 teaspoons dried oregano  
500g lamb mince  
2 cans (400g) tomato frito  
70g grated Italian hard cheese

### Method:

Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C/Gas mark 7.  
Boil a full kettle.  
Peel and chop the onions.  
Heat a large, wide-based pan with a drizzle of olive oil over a medium heat.  
When hot, add the onion and bay leaves and cook until onion is starting to soften.  
Add the mince and cook for 5 minutes or until browned, breaking up with a wooden spoon as it cooks.  
Dissolve the stock cube in 250ml boiled water.  
When the lamb has browned, add the oregano, tomato frito and beef stock to the pan. Place over a high heat and cook for 4 – 5 minutes or until the stock had thickened to a ragù consistency.  
Whilst the ragù is thickening, add the gnocchi to a pan of boiled water and rapidly bring to the boil, cook for 3 minutes or until it begins



to rise to the top of the pot. Drain when done.

When the ragù has thickened, add the spinach to the pan and cook for 2 – 3 minutes until the spinach has wilted.

Add the gnocchi, season with a generous grind of black pepper, remove the bay leaves and stir thoroughly.

Transfer the mixture to an ovenproof dish, sprinkle the grated cheese over it and put in the oven for 10 – 15 minutes or until bubbling and golden.

Leave to stand for 5 minutes. Enjoy!



# Services

## 6th February.

8.30am	Morning Prayer	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	David Swales
10.45am	Holy Communion†		

## 13th.

8.30am	Holy Communion	1 Corinthians 15.12-20	David Swales
10.45am	Morning Worship†**		

## 20th.

8.30am	Morning Prayer	Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25	David Swales
10.45am	Family Service		Anne Murphy & David Swales

## 27th.

8.30am	Holy Communion	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	David Swales
10.45am	Morning Worship*		

## 6th March.

8.30am	Morning Prayer	Luke 4.1-13	David Swales
10.45am	Confirmation		Bishop Sam

- If you would like to attend any of our services in person, please let Duncan Matheson know.
- All 10:45am services will be streamed live - visit our website for direct links.
- A recording of each live-streamed service will be available from the services page of the church website: <http://www.pottshrigleychurch.org.uk>

† Junior Church \* Youth Church (during 10.45 service) \*\* Youth Church (at 6pm)

	Prayers	Readers	Sidesmen at 8.30
6th February	Chris Day	Clare Chasty	Duncan & Kath Matheson
13th	Mathesons	Ian Malyan	Gill Mosley & Sue Wardle
20th	Children & Young People		Clare Chasty
27th	Gartons	Nikki Hughan	Liz & John Arrowsmith
6th March	TBC	TBC	Tony Close



"I'm updating the 'rota noticeboard' rota, rota... do I see a hand....?"

	Church Cleaning
4th February	Caroline Booth and Jean Hunt
11th	Reg and Jean Ferguson
18th	Sue and Mike Akerman
25th	Mary and Ivan Currell
4th March	Joy and David Whitehead



### Valentines Top Tip:

*Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. – Ricky, age 10*



## Directory

Priest-in-charge:	Rev. David Swales, The Vicarage, Spuley Lane, SK10 5RS vicar@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	575846
Readers:	Dr John Ryley (Reader Emeritus), 2 Wych Lane, Adlington, SK10 4NB	829595
Parish Assistant:	Gillian Mosley, 129 St Austell Avenue, Macclesfield, SK10 3NY	829819
Churchwardens:	Andy Phillips, 26 Hurst Lane, Bollington, SK10 5LP andyphillips@totalise.co.uk	07881 358976
	David Gem, Ridge Hall Farm, Ridge Hill, Sutton, Macclesfield, SK11 0LU davidgem@gmail.com	01260 252287
Verger:	Situation Vacant	
PCC Secretary:	Chris Day pccsecretary@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer:	Peter Kennedy, kennedyp@tuckerssolicitors.com	07850 740335
Gift Aid & Planned Giving:	Sally Winstanley, 3 Green Close Cottages, Pott Shrigley, SK10 5SG sjwinstanley.ps@gmail.com	574545
Organists:	Mary Currell, 61 Crossfield Road, Bollington, SK10 5EA marycurrell61@btinternet.com	573735
	David Garton, davidgarton2020@gmail.com	573492
	Andy Phillips, as above	07881 358976
Weekly Bulletin:	David Gem, as above	01260 252287
Electoral Roll and Safeguarding officer:	Kath Matheson, Church View Cottage, Pott Shrigley, SK10 5SA kmpott@yahoo.co.uk	574983
Tower Captain:	Duncan Matheson, Church View Cottage, Pott Shrigley, SK10 5SA dmpott@yahoo.co.uk	574983
Pastoral Care Team:	Kim Swales, The Vicarage, Spuley Lane, SK10 5RS	575846
Church Guild:	Georgina Wray, 14 Paladin Place, Bank Close, Macclesfield, SK11 7HE georginawray@btinternet.com	615547
Children's Ministry	Situation Vacant	
Youth Ministry:	Anne Murphy, 14 Silver Street, Bollington, SK10 5QL annemurphy1214@gmail.com	575768
Praise and Play:	Situation Vacant	
Parish Council Clerk:	Joyce Burton, pottclerk@btinternet.com	
Wedding Coordinator:	Pam Cooke, weddings@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	
Head Teacher:	Joanne Bromley, Pott Shrigley Church School, SK10 5RT head@pottshrigley.cheshire.sch.uk	573260
Website:	Tess Phillips, 26 Hurst Lane, Bollington, SK10 5LP info@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	(please prefix numbers with 01625)

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PCC Members: Dr John Ryley, Duncan Matheson, Sally Winstanley, Peter Kennedy, Jean Ferguson, Andy Phillips, Pam Cooke, Ian Clarke, Mary Currell, Mike Akerman, Rebecca Roth-Biester, Sheila Garton, David Garton, David Gem, Anne Murphy, Kath Matheson, Chris Day, Reg Ferguson.

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This directory was updated on 24th August 2021. Please give corrections and additions to [magazine@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk)