



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 99

September 2018

**Concert**  
**Keep the Home**  
**Fires Burning**  
(Words and Music  
about World War I)  
**Saturday 1st September**  
**4.00pm**  
**St Jude's Church**  
Admission free  
Refreshments in the interval  
Donations welcome

**Coffee**  
**Morning**  
Saturday 15th September  
10.00am-12.00 noon  
outside St Jude's Church  
Offers of cakes, biscuits,  
jams, preserves etc welcome



on  
**Sunday 9th September**  
(and on the **second**  
**Sunday** of each month)  
in St Jude's Church  
at 4.00pm  
*Children should be accompanied  
by a parent*

## **This God is our God**

The extreme weather this summer has resulted in many catastrophic events - all across the world. In this country we saw terrible moorland fires on Saddleworth Moor and Winter Hill in Tameside. The battle to contain the fires and to bring them under control went on for several weeks. No human lives were lost but swathes of beautiful countryside were ruined and precious wildlife destroyed. That kind of destruction has been mirrored on an even vaster scale in Greece and in North America.

Sunday by Sunday in St. Jude's we read the words of an Old Testament Psalm. Many of the psalms are celebrations of the faithfulness and power of God. They remind us that God has the power to bring good out of the most devastating of circumstances. They remind us too that God is not remote from us, or absent from the circumstances of our lives. In the words of Psalm 48: "For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end". (Psalm 48:14)

Many of the writers of the psalms were experiencing devastation and loss in their own lives. They cry out to God and seek His presence in their pain. Centuries later the Apostle Paul wrote of his own experience of weakness and fear. He described a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) that he had begged God to take away from him. We don't know what it was. Perhaps a physical weakness; perhaps something that today we might describe as a mental health issue; perhaps a temptation that returned again and again. . But, whatever it was, Paul was greatly tormented by it and called it a "messenger of Satan". Yet...in his vulnerability Paul encountered the presence and transforming power of God. As a result he wrote that, "when I am weak, then I am strong". (2 Corinthians 12:10)

So often seems that it is in the bad times in our lives we discover more about God and His love. I once met someone who had suddenly become desperately ill. In the past she had had a very real faith. Lying in her hospital bed, she recognised she needed to find God again. She borrowed a New Testament and found some of the passages and promises that had once meant so much to her. Through her illness God reawakened her relationship with Him.

This God is our God! This is the God who can still bring blessing even from the most unpromising of circumstances. At the heart of the Christian faith is the cross of Jesus, which can look like the greatest disaster in human history. Paul wrote "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing". But, he continued, "to us who are being saved it is the power of God". (1 Corinthians 1:18)

One report on the fires on Saddleworth Moor particularly caught my attention. A farmer described driving through the flames over and over again to rescue his sheep. "Weren't you afraid?" the reporter asked him. "Of course I was afraid" he replied "but my sheep are too precious to leave". And that is the message of the cross of Jesus. The cross is God's rescue programme. It is God demonstrating that you and I are too precious to Him to be left in our frailty and fear, sorrow and sin.

Following the fires on Saddleworth Moor a dear friend sent me pictures taken six weeks after devastating bush fires along the Great Ocean Road in Australia. Already there were signs of new life. About 150 species of previously unknown plant life were beginning to flourish. Before the fires they had been invisible, submerged by much larger, well-documented forms of vegetation. In just the same way, in the terrible shadow of the cross, we find God's promise of forgiveness and hope for the future; of God's presence in our pain; of God's love in our loss. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". (John 3:16)

As a child I learned the chorus: "It is no secret what God can do, What He's done for others, He'll do for you..." This God is not absent from us today. This God is not remote. "This God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end". (Psalm 48)

*Judith Allford*

## How to contact us

Email: [enquiries@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:enquiries@stjudeschurch.info)

Telephone: 01784 470107 (24 hr answerphone)

## Readings at 9.30am Communion

2nd September (Trinity 14)	Song of Solomon 2.8–13 Psalm 45. 1–2, 6–9 James 1.17–end Mark 7. 1–8, 14, 15, 21–23
9th September (Trinity 15)	Proverbs 23. 1–2, 8, 22, 23 Psalm 125 James 2. 1–10, 14–17 Mark 7. 24–end
16th September (Trinity 16)	Proverbs 1. 20–33 Psalm 19 James 3. 1–12 Mark 7. 24–end
23rd September (Trinity 17)	Proverbs 31.10–end Psalm 1 James 3. 13–4. 3,7–8a Mark 9. 30–37
30th September (Trinity 18)	Esther 7. 1–6, 9–10,9. 20–22 Psalm 124 James 5. 13–end Hebrews 1.1–4, 2. 5–12 Mark 10. 2–16

## Organ Voluntaries in September

2nd September 9.30am	Toccata and Fugue in D minor (J.S. Bach)
9th September 9.30am	Toccata from 5th Symphony (C.M. Widor)
9th September 6.30pm	Chorale Prelude on Crimond (Alec Rowley)
16th September 9.30am	Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV 715 (J.S. Bach)
23rd September 9.30am	Sonata No.1 in F minor 1st movt (Mendelssohn)
30th September 9.30am	Allegro from Sonata in D (Charles Avison)

## From the Registers

*Funerals:*

(10th August) Stephen Tuite; (13th) Kathryn Eckley;  
(20th) Stanley Smith.

## The Clock

Many thanks to those of you who have sent donations towards the cost of repairing the Church clock.

## Diary for September

- 1 Saturday 4.00pm Keep the Home Fires Burning: Words and Music about World War 1
- 2 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Taizé service
- 5 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 9 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Messy Church 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- 12 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 15 Saturday 10.00–12.00 noon Coffee Morning outside Church
- 16 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 19 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 23 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 24 Monday 8.00pm Church Council meets
- 26 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 30 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 11.15am Informal All-age service 12.15pm Lunch

All events take place at St Jude's Church unless otherwise stated —

The Church is open every Saturday 2-4pm

## The Village Centre (01784 471110)

The Village Centre has now been open for eight years and it continues to grow from strength to strength. The building is now booked, virtually every day, for regular events and provides a real variety of activities such as exercise and slimming classes, karaoke, a dementia support group, pre-school French lessons and of course ballet and dance. For full details please see our website:

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk).

The 'Friends of the Village Centre' scheme is progressing well, but if you would like to be involved in supporting us financially please give Ali, the manager a call. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you have at least two hours a week to spare let us know.

## Rendezvous Café

The Village Centre has a thriving café and a perfect place for you to meet your friends, let your children play, or just to have a fantastic coffee from our new barista style coffee machine. You will always receive a warm welcome.

We are open Mon–Wed 9am to 4pm, Thurs and Fri 9am to 5pm, and in school holidays 10am to 2pm. We rely on volunteers so if you are free during the week, why not come and join us?

## Mr Stanley Smith

The Funeral took place in St.Jude's on 20th August 2018 of Mr Stanley Smith (affectionately known as "Stan") who was born in Crown Farm Cottages in Englefield Green on 1st March 1920. With the exception of his last four weeks in a Nursing Home, Stanley spent almost his entire life in the village. For many years he worked as a vehicle mechanic, a trade he loved. He is remembered in the village not least for the help he gave many people in the repair of their cars! He served as a mechanic in the Second World War with The Royal Army Service Corps. In 1947 he married Beryl Waterhouse who died in 1986 at the age of only 64. Stanley was a regular reader of "The Ship". He died on 28th July 2018 at the remarkable age of 98. Stan leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Barry and Lesley, and a grand-daughter, Katie.

## Forthcoming Concerts

- |       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 6 Oct | River City Saxes               |
| tbc   | Janice Williams (piano)        |
| 3 Nov | James Kirby (piano)            |
| 1 Dec | Corinna Boylan (chamber group) |
| 6 Jan | Community Concert              |
| 2 Feb | Royal Holloway students        |
| 2 Mar | Royal Holloway students        |