

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



*Church Magazine for December 2011
And January 2012*

60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

First Words...

- **Christmas**

The Services for Christmas can be found in this magazine. You're warmly invited to attend any, or all, of these. We have Services for children and families, a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Day Communion Services at both 8.00 am and 10.00 am.

- **But Before That It's Advent**

The season of Advent is so often overlooked in our clamour to start Christmas celebrations earlier and earlier. On the four Sundays before Christmas we spend time preparing for the great celebration of Christ's birth.

- **New Pattern Of Services – Come Along And Tell Us What You Think**

"What time is the Service this week?" - A question that we're asked on many occasions. Sometimes it's 9.30, sometimes it's 10.00, sometimes it's 10.30 and sometimes it's 11.15. Well not anymore! **Now it's always 10.00 am – 52 weeks of the year!** There's more information on this in the magazine and also at the Church's website - www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Daniel Hartley



The Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Front Cover – St Mary's In The Deep Mid-Winter 2010

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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

Advent and Christmas

Are you ready for Christmas?

It's the sort of question that we ask a lot at this time of year, but what does it mean? Most of the time we're being asked whether or not everything has been bought, boxed and prepared. Have you got the tree up? Have you bought the presents? Is it turkey, goose, beef or nut roast? All of these things are important. Like most people I love all of the Christmas festivities. I love to watch my children open presents and I love to sit down to a great Christmas lunch. I even like a Christmas glass of wine or two (no Evening Service in Ecclesfield on Christmas Day!).

But are you really ready for Christmas? Are you ready for what Christmas really means? On Christmas Day we remember that God has chosen life over death. He has seen human beings, with all of our weaknesses and faults, and seen something worth saving. He has sent his Son into the world to be born in a stable at Bethlehem, greeted by shepherds and wise men. The true meaning of Christmas is encapsulated by the great verse from Scripture:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” – John 3.16

I'd like to invite you to join with us for our Christmas celebrations, details of which can be found in this magazine. But I'd also like to invite you to join with us for the season of Advent. To truly understand what Christmas means we must experience a time of preparation, the season of Advent. During the season of Advent we make our spiritual preparation for Christmas Day.

So am I ready for Christmas? The answer to this is most definitely “not yet!”. This un-readiness is transformed into a readiness as I, along with the whole Church, walk the journey of Advent. With diligent preparation we will “Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!” as we celebrate again the birth of our Saviour this Christmastide.

So, may I wish each of you a holy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Daniel Hartley

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Holiday Worship Part 2

A few years have now past since the church in the garden was opened it is still thriving although many changers have taken place.

No longer is the Salvationist the pastor. He is now spending his time with a children's charity for the poor on Mallorca but occasionally when requested will conduct a service.

The new preacher is an American; the order of service has changed - Some times lasting up to 3 hrs! And may be in 3 parts depending on the time of year or the sermon but it is still well attended.

Coming home from St Mary's one Sunday morning we turned the TV on to see the last part of a program called 'Parish In The Sun'. This was a series to be broadcast every week from a number of different places and beaches on the island of Mallorca and showed the 'day to day' duties of the vicar and curate.

Our very good friend Celia was asked to investigate on our behalf.

On our very next visit to Mallorca she had found the location of the Anglican Church and suggested we attend the next Sunday morning we left Inca about 9.30 am for the 14 mile journey to Palma.

The service starts at 11.00 am which gave us plenty of time to find the church and a convenient parking space We were some what surprised to find a two story building with wide steps to the second floor and large glass doors leading to a very light interior the altar at the far end.

We were greeted by the Curate who realizing that it was our first visit gave us a very short history of St James and St Philip and was also very interested to hear about St Marys – Ecclesfield back home. She also added that the current Vicar Robert Ellis had been a vicar in Sheffield some years before.

Now it was 11.00 am and time for the service to begin.

The Crucifer two Servers and the Vicar walked from the back of the Church to the altar during the first hymn of the service very much as at St Mary's. With a choir of six (not robed) and a small organ the service was very much as at it would have been at home - apart from the difference in the music responses.

Continued overleaf

After the service we were shown the rest of the Church and the Garden of Remembrance for church members who had died whilst away from home. The congregation was about half and half ex-pats and visitors. Following the service we were invited to drinks in the hall on the ground floor under the main church and were able to meet and chat with many of the congregation. Some of you may know Roberts brother Tim who was also a vicar in Sheffield and is now Bishop of Grantham.

Anglican services are also held once a month in the Catholic church of Pollensa and Cala d'Or although the church of St Phillip and St James is part of the European Anglican circuit in the Diocese of Gibraltar; some duties have been shared since 1966 when the church was consecrated. People from every nationality and background are welcome whether they be resident or visitor.

SG

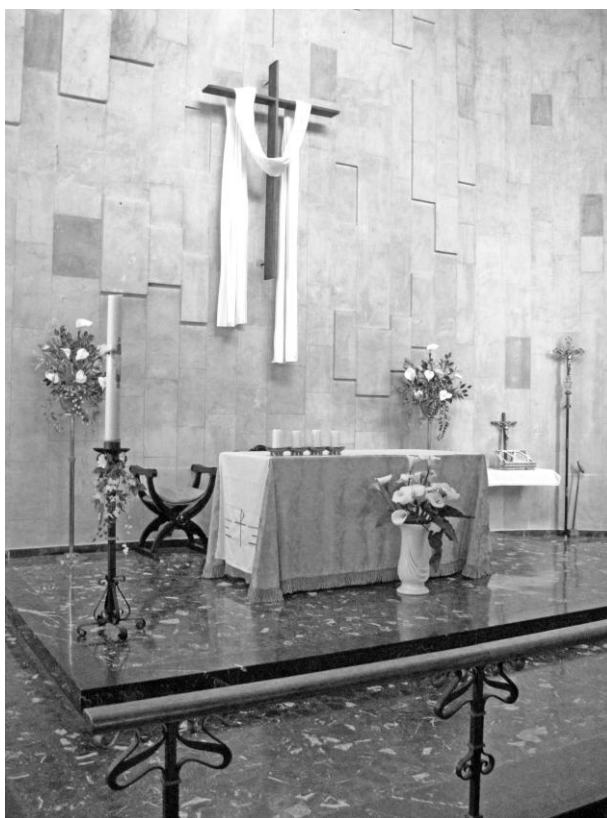


Photo of the alter at Easter
Church of St Phillip and St James in Mallorca

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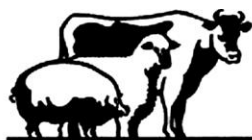


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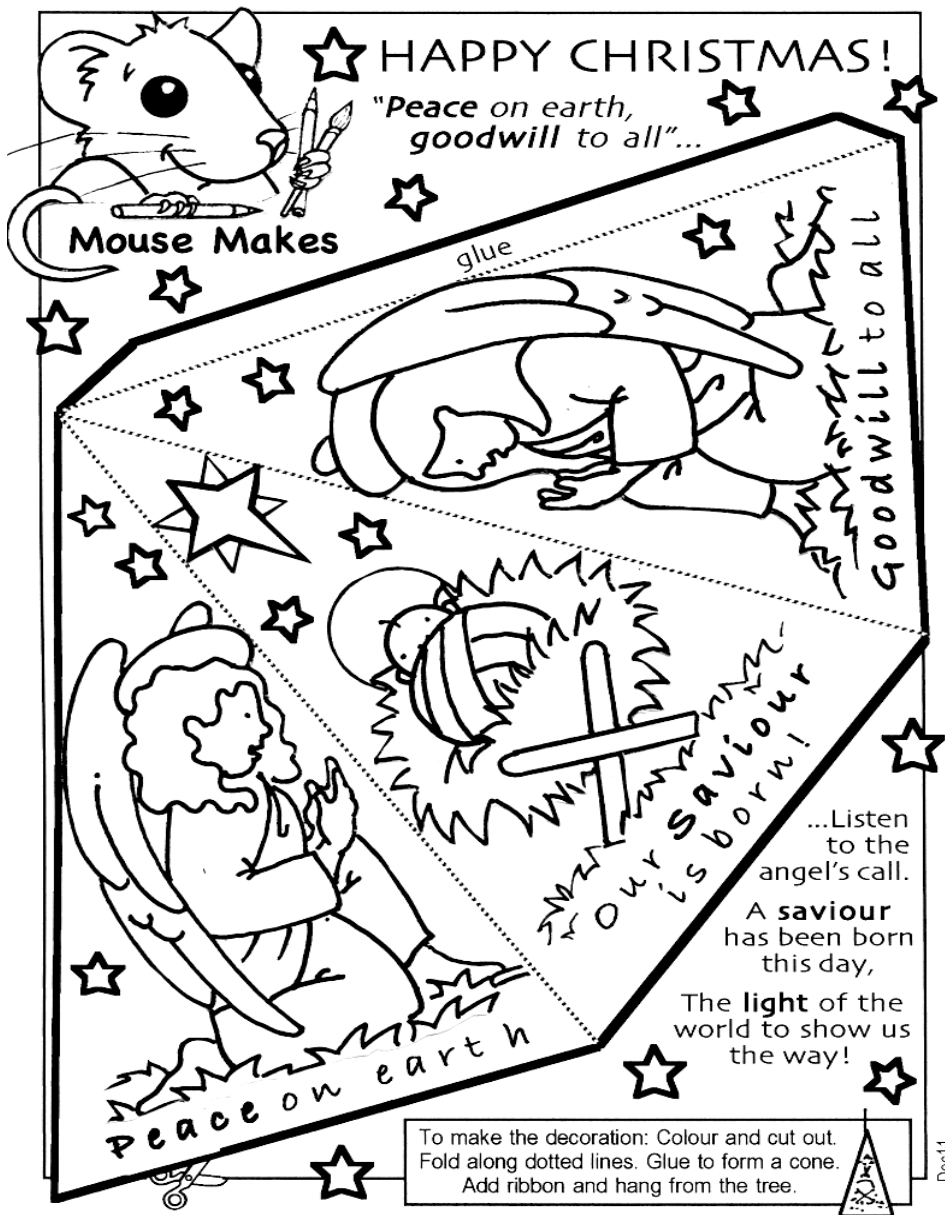
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Children's page



Will You Remember Them – Mexico December 2011

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body”. 2 Corinthians 4: 8-10 (NIV)

Mexico - Open Doors Steps In To Support 4 Year Old Girl After Fatal Shooting.

Four year old Cristina was on her way to church in Huixtan, Mexico, with her parents and 13 year old brother Emillo when she saw two men wearing hoods opening fire on the family. Christina’s arm was severely injured and she was pinned to the ground by her brother’s dead body, which fell on her. She was found two hours later and rushed to hospital, where they managed to save her arm.

Cristina’s father, Sebastian, was found with ten bullet holes in his body. He had been beheaded by his killers. An elder in the local church, Sebastian was known as an exemplary, peaceful person in their community. Cristina’s mother Maria was also shot dead. Although the physical rehabilitation for little Cristina’s injured arm is progressing, she cannot move her arm fully. There are fears for her safety and that of her older brothers, who were not present at the time of the killing.

Open Doors are providing legal support for the family and local authorities have now begun an investigation into the murders. Open Doors are also supplying clothes and practical and emotional support for Cristina as well as her older brothers and sister.

Please Pray:

1. For comfort and healing for Cristina and her brothers and sister after this traumatic event.
2. For all the children like Cristina whose parents have been murdered for their faith.
3. That the church in the UK will be reawakened to pray for and support persecuted Christians around the world.

JD

Our Trip to Rwanda

On the 18th September 2011 a group of 8 members of Christian Aware, from various parts of Britain travelled to Rwanda unknowing what we would encounter. Rwanda is still recovering from the genocide in 1995 when over a million people were killed and many women infected with HIV Aids and most of the infrastructure was almost destroyed.

We stayed in “Alleluia House” which is situated in Cyakabire, just outside the town of Gitarama, which is where the Bishop and most of the diocesan workers live. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that there was an MU building nearby and we were introduced to the co-ordinator there, named Claudine. In this building both girls and boys were being taught sewing on treadle machines, knitting on machines and card making, using leaves and bark of the banana tree. A project called “Youth at Risk” was also being run from this area where boys and youths were being taught woodworking and metal skills, mainly making furniture (this project was initially started in an old ship’s container). Some members of the MU in this area were making jewellery in their own homes and for which they were paid a small sum. Also there was a pineapple factory which makes both juice and jam. We were taken to a small building in a nearby area where the MU had some premises where they were making school uniforms. They have Contracts with Schools and make dress/shirt and trousers plus a jumper for every child. The women receive around 50p for making the uniform and on an average can make 4 uniforms per day.

Together with Claudine we were taken to visit a village about 1.30 minutes from where we were staying and which turned out to be a very rough and uncomfortable journey. However, the reception we received was worth it. Although this village is in Claudine’s diocese, it was the first time she had been there, as there is no money for her to pay for transport. First of all we were taken into the Pastor’s house where we were given a meal of rice, cooked plantain, goat meat and cassava. Cassava is part of their staple diet and is a root vegetable that looks like parsnip. This is dried and then ground into flour, using very primitive machinery. It is mixed with water and made into a pudding with a texture similar to dumplings – so in other words we were given “stew and dumplings”.

We were introduced to a young man named Andrew, whose father was a Pastor and was killed in the genocide. Both his parents were dead and he was looking after himself and his siblings. They had a cow and some chickens that Andrew also had to feed. Each day he cycled 3 hours to the school where he was teaching then 3 hours back and in the evening he attended University. Many of the people attend University in the evening after they have finished their work. We also met a girl named Grace whose father had been killed and whose mother subsequently

died from HIV Aids. Grace had an infection in her lower leg that subsequently had to be amputated below the knee. When asked where she would be staying that night, she did not know.

We visited St Peter's School in Shogwe that teaches both kindergarten, primary and also has a technical college, where the students are being taught building skills, agriculture and husbandry. There is also a Bible College, and these skills will also help these students, in practical terms, when they go into their respective parishes after they have finished their studies. On the Sunday we were invited to Shogwe Cathedral for their morning service! This service lasted 4 hours. However, we have to say in the most part it was very vibrant, with singing and dancing by various choirs. The sermon was a bit long – luckily we were sat on fairly comfy chairs – but could not nod off as we were sat behind the altar.

Out of respect, we visited the Genocide Museum in Kigali, which was a very moving and disturbing experience.

Quite a lot of our time was spent visiting very outlying villages where they were trying out various projects and needed money to extend those projects and decisions had to be made as to whether or not these were feasible and then reported back to Christians Aware.

We left “Alleluia House” after a week and went to Butare where we stayed at Shalom House. Butare is known as the University City. We visited some extremely poor parishes in this area, one of which had 1500 people with HIV Aids out of a total of 2000. The people with HIV Aids are obviously very weak and are unable to do any heavy work such as tilling the land. Apparently, after the young women have their babies, they breast feed them for 2 months and then leave them with the older women, while they go and look for work. Also after the children reach of age of 10 years, the parents expect them to fend for themselves. There is little education in this village but there is a Leader in the village for the young people and there is a programme for children from 2 years old to be taught every Saturday. Also every Monday and Friday there is a literacy programme taken by the Pastor because they cannot afford to pay anyone and there is no MU worker here. However, we must say that all the people we met seemed to be happy and always smiling.

Our lasting memory is passing a grave of 5500 people. The Government appears to be helping but the workforce has been greatly depleted because of the genocide.

We are prepared to give a talk and slide show about our experiences in Rwanda, if you would like to contact us.

Heather 0114 2463104 and Pam 0114 2463482

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The Bishops' Letter, December 2011

This month Bishop Steven writes

An early Christmas present

Almost everyone who reads this will be writing Christmas Cards in December. Spare a thought for the Bishop! In my official and personal capacity I send around 600 cards every year. It's a task I normally enjoy, providing there is a fire burning and some music playing in the room, the first mince pie(s) of the season and a glass of something or other.



Sending and receiving cards is part of the way we prepare. We send love and greetings to family, friends and colleagues as a way of reminding each other that we are connected. All of us belong to a wider community which spreads in many different directions. Some of our ties are strong and some are weak but at this time of year they are all important.

The cards also remind us that as Christians we are part of the long story of God's people. The cards we send as Christians are part of our witness to that story. We are reminding each other of the beginning of our story: the great narrative of Christ's birth. For that reason, like many Christians, I try to make sure that the pictures on the cards I send tell part of the Christmas story. This is the story which gives meaning to our lives and which speaks of God's love and light in the midst of darkness.

This year I've put a verse into the Christmas card. I love to write new things and this is an attempt at a new Christmas carol, based on the much loved passage at the beginning of John's gospel, "In the beginning was the word". Those who normally have a card from me, look away now! But if you don't then here is an early Christmas present.

May God be with you as you prepare for the Christmas season and celebrate Christ's birth.

+Steven Sheffield

Word who was before time
Word through whom worlds came.
Word with God and of God
Eternally the same.
Wisdom and power, creation's mighty flow
Taking flesh among us, dwelling here below.

Life is in the Word's light
Fruitful life for all.
Light is in the Word's life
Cradled in the stall.
Shining in darkness, banishing all fear
Taking flesh among us, God's own Son draws near.

Word of God incarnate
Dwelling on the earth.
We behold his beauty,
Wonder at his birth.
Grace, truth and glory, shaping Jesus life
Taking flesh among us, come to end our strife.

Steven Croft, 2011

(From John 1.1-11)

Tune: Noel Nouvalet (Now the green blade riseth)



The Virgin

Behold the Virgin approaching near,
And the Christ so young upon her breast,
Angels low-bowing before them here,
And the King of life saying, 'Tis best'.

Old Celtic prayer

Diary for the Month of December 2011

Sunday 4th

2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
 12.45 pm Baptism Service
 6.00 pm Carols around the Christmas Tree

Monday 5th

7.30 pm PCC in Church

Wednesday 7th

10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
 1.30 pm MU Christmas Party in the Gatty Hall

Thursday 8th

9.30 am Holy Communion
 7.30 pm Christmas Table Decorations
 2.00 pm Service at Hartwell House

Sunday 11th

3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Parish Communion
 6.30 pm Holy Communion
 Tuesday 13th 7.00 pm Carols at the Northern General Hospital
 Wednesday 14th 9.30 am Ecclesfield Primary Carols in Church
 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Thursday 15th

9.30 am Holy Communion
 2.00 pm Service at Hartwell House
 7.30 pm Christmas Concert in Church

Sunday 18th

4th Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
 4.00 pm Christingle Service
 Tuesday 20th 6.30 pm Carol Singing at Morrisons
 Wednesday 21st 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
 1.30 pm Children's Christmas Crafts in Church
 Thursday 22nd 9.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 24th

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Crib Service
 6.30 pm Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday 25th

Christmas Day

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Parish Communion
 Thursday 29th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Diary for the Month of January 2012

Sunday 1st		Naming & Circumcision of Jesus
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 4 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 5 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th		Epiphany
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12.00 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 12 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in The Gatty Hall
Saturday 14 th	6.00 pm	MU Social in The Gatty Hall
Sunday 15th		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6/30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 18 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	12 noon	MU Annual Dinner at The Grange
Thursday 18 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in The Gatty Hall
Sunday 22nd		3rd Sunday of Epiphany
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 23 rd	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
Wednesday 24 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 25 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in The Gatty Hall
Sunday 29th		4th Sunday of Epiphany
	10.00 am	5 th Sunday Service - Candlemas
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 31 st	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

From the Registers

Baptisms

6th November	Alexandra Jamieson
6th November	Rachel Jamieson
6th November	Oliver Bell
6th November	Hannah Craddock

*May they know the love of God in their lives and may all things
of the Spirit live and grow in them.*

Funerals

Cremation

2nd November	Constance Galloway	87
21st November	Gordon Holland	79

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

4th December	Advent 2
11th December	Advent 3
18th December	Advent 4
25th December	Christmas Flowers (Alice Hinchliffe)



New Joint Service – 10.00 am Every Sunday

On Advent Sunday (27th November) our new pattern of Sunday Morning Services began.

In putting together our 10 o'clock Service we have created something **new** out of our existing 9.30 and 11.15 Services. Each Sunday will be a Service of Parish Communion reflecting the rich diversity of our worshipping life. All of our Services will include both traditional and modern elements and **there is a place for each and every one of you in the future of St Mary's, Ecclesfield.**

Please note that the 8 o'clock and 6.30 Services remain unchanged

The Local Carols

One of the special treats about Christmas in Ecclesfield is the tradition of singing 'local' carols. These are Christmas songs which are quite separate from the more familiar 'national' carols usually sung in church services, on TV programmes and in films. The exact origin of the local carols is not completely clear. It is believed that they started as Christmas folk songs, created by local people, and were probably in existence by the 1600s. Like all folk songs, they continued to grow and change over time and were not written down with music until the 1800s.



A number of new ones were created around that time. The vicar of Ecclesfield for much of that century, Dr. Gatty, is known to have composed at least two local carols and arranged several others.

In comparison, many of the better known national carols are in fact international, written by well-known English or European composers. The singing of local carols now seems to be peculiar to North Sheffield and also parts of North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire although there are similar songs sung in Cornwall and even parts of North America. It may be that some of these have travelled with migrating miners seeking work; it may also be possible that local carols were once common across the whole country but have largely died out, replaced by the national carols.

The carols are quite distinctive; some refer to local people such as Newton and Chambers and many have separate parts for men and woman with refrains very similar to the hymns written by Charles Wesley. And then there are the traditional words of 'while shepherds watched' set to at least 28 different tunes! The local carols are still sung quite widely in the villages of North Sheffield – Ecclesfield, Grenoside, Oughtibridge, Worrall, Bradfield, Dungworth, Bolsterstone, and Ingbirchworth among others, often interspersed with some of the well-known national ones. In Ecclesfield, the tradition of the local carols is well established and it used to be common for them to be sung in church and in homes and also by carollers walking around the village 'wassailing'.

Although they are still sung occasionally in church, their main home is now in the pub. Until the mid-1980s, they were sung in several Ecclesfield pubs including the Black Bull, The White Bear and The Arundel where they were sometimes accompanied by the Ecclesfield Silver Prize Band which also used to play carols around the village on Christmas day morning. The carols are now mainly sung only in the Black Bull. If you have never heard or sung these carols, it can prove to be a really enjoyable evening well worth trying.

Local Carols are sung in the Black Bull opposite the church from about 8.30pm on Thursdays starting on 17th November and finishing on 22nd December.

ACR

The Gardening Year Dec 2011 – Jan 2012.

Flowers - shelter beds of bulbs by a mulch of compost or manure over surface. Press back young plants of carnations and wallflowers into the soil after each severe frost. Plant Michaelmas daisies where large borders are to be filled. Collect rubbish and burn it, use the ash over the flower beds. All digging should be completed before the end of the year. Herbaceous borders can be renovated when the ground is neither too wet nor frosty.

The Shrubbery – deciduous climbers of all kinds can be planted except when frosts are severe. Thorough preparation of the soil is necessary as the plants will be placed in their permanent position. And the subsoil cannot afterwards receive treatment. Clean up the soil beneath evergreens. Remove unwanted shrubs and prepare the site by deep digging and manuring to receive the newer varieties in the spring.

The Rock Garden – rock plants lifted out of their soil pockets by frost should be pressed back. Place a layer of stone chippings on the surface round the plants keep a look out for slugs if the weather is mild, they will make for the tender plants. Protect alpine plants by horizontal sheets of glass raised a few inches above the plants.

Fruit – wall fruits should receive attention. Pruning should be done, and the shoots that are retained should be fastened to the wall or fence. It is not wise to prune on very frosty days. Fruit trees should not be planted in mid-winter except during mild spells.

Vegetables – frost should harm cabbage, broad beans etc., unless the plants are lifted out of the ground. After a frost, the earth should be pressed round the stems of the plants.

The Soil this Month – deep digging is the best kind of fertilizer, as it allows frost and rain to break up soil particles. Dig all vegetable matter manure etc. into the soil as trenching is done. Do not apply artificial fertilizers to light sandy soil until the spring.

Finally I would like to wish every one of our readers and all at St Mary's a Merry Christmas and a Happy Gardening New Year.

Colin Williams



After a long absence, it is good to be writing again with News and Views.

The choir continues to thrive with a full membership just below the 50 mark. We have been very pleased to welcome back our Deputy Conductor Christian Young who is working in support of our Musical Director Chris Lamb. Christian has been away doing the work experience part of his university degree but is now back at Huddersfield University.

By the time you read this, the choir will hopefully have performed in our first concert for very many years at Elsecar Church on 12th November and be looking forward to the Christmas Carol Concerts with Chapeltown Brass Band.

The traditional concert at Grenoside Community Centre takes place on Monday December 5th at 7.15 pm and tickets in advance can be obtained from our Secretary Garry Leigh on 0114 246 4714.

The Chapeltown concert, also with Chapeltown Brass Band, will be on Friday December 9th at 7.30.

The choir is always looking for new members, especially men, and you will be most welcome if you wish to join us, even to sit and listen, at our practices at 7.30 on Monday evenings in St. Mark's Church Hall.

Website <http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk>

Andrew Robinson

Humour

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Anglican ones and 50 Methodist ones."

On a very cold, snowy Sunday morning in January, only the vicar and one farmer arrived at the village church. The vicar said, "Well, I guess we won't have a service today." The farmer replied: "Heck, if even only one cow shows up at feeding time, I feed it."

60th Annual Carol Concert

Grenoside Singers and Chapeltown Brass Band

Monday 5th December 2011 at 7.15 pm

Grenoside Community Centre

Please join us for the traditional annual concert of community carols, featuring a range of seasonal music from the choir and the band.

Admission £5 Tickets in advance from

Garry Leigh (0114) 246 4714

Christmas Coffee Morning

Carol singing accompanied by crafts, cakes etc.

Saturday 17th December 2011.

E.P.P.i.C. Theatre 10.00 – 12 noon

All proceeds go to E.P.P.i.C. Theatre Lighting project

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CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?



**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**
Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.



Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

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Coffee Shop

at St Mary's Church

Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 p.m.



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All Welcome

Mothers' Union Report

At our meeting in November we warmly welcomed our speaker The Reverend Jeni Fryer. She spoke to us about 'Hope', 'Gratitude' and 'Our time is now'.

Gratitude was thought to be like a gift - some of us have it and others don't. Were we born with it or was it acquired? Both as children and adults, when things aren't going our way we tend to say life isn't fair. Are we naturally grateful or have we got to work at it?

In small groups we were encouraged to discuss what we had to be grateful for; what were our parents like; and what we hope for. These were very interesting sessions. It was thought that the relationship we have with others (be it love or hate) and examples set by our parents, influence the type of person we are today. We were reminded that we are all unique, loved by God, full of his potential and he has an influence in our lives. It can be through our heart where we feel valued because there is no one else like me. It could be in our head where we learn to react to what we are told that Jesus loved each and every one of us. He showed this and that we can hope to be like God through his acts of love, teachings and healings, paying the sacrifice with his death upon the cross and his resurrection. Thus whilst we may hope for more time on this earth, today is the only reality, therefore we must enjoy it showing affection and love.

The talk ended with a time of quiet reflection followed by this prayer:

Lord I ask your forgiveness for the times when I have forgotten you and your love for me. Help me to remember that you are always with me in good times and in bad. When I am living life to the full with you and also when I am struggling for some reason. Help me to start again with you today in these moments; to live in, and with, and for you as my life progresses. Thank you for your presence with me now Lord.

Amen

J. G.

Christmas Crafts for Children

At St. Mary's Church

Wednesday 21st December 2011



2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Cost £2.00 per child



(0114) 2467348 for further information or to book a place

Please complete this slip and bring it with you to the church if you want your child / children to attend the craft session.

I give my consent for my child /children

Name/s _____

To attend the Christmas Craft session at St. Mary's Church –
Ecclesfield on Wednesday 21st December 2011.

Signed _____
(parent/guardian)

Contact number in case of emergency: ☎ _____

Please use the space below to give details of any allergies that affect your child, and any other relevant information.

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room; and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

Continued below

I believe in the One whom the rulers of the earth ignored, and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God; the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Author unknown

The Virgin

Behold the Virgin approaching near,
And the Christ so young upon her breast,
Angels low-bowing before them here,
And the King of life saying, 'Tis best'.

Old Celtic prayer

The Stonegate Devil

In Stonegate sits a devil, red,
Not far from the Minster of York,
He's been there a while, but you may see him
smile,
Or almost imagine him talk.

In Stonegate sits a devil, red,
His eyes with humour aglow,
As he looks from his height at the shoppers who
fight
Through the crowded street down below.

In Stonegate sits a devil, red,
And why that devilish grin?
Cos he sits on his perch, and knows that the
church
Has very few people within.

In Stonegate sits a devil, red,
Who laughs as he sits on his rest,
The source of his mirth? That the feast of
Christ's birth
Is now just a massive shopfest.

By Nigel Beeton

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Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1** Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4** 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7** What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8** Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9** Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13** 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16** Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17** National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19** Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24** Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25** The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26** Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27** Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Clues Down

- 1** Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2** Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3** 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4** A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5** One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6** 'Reach out your hand and - - into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10** Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11** 'What - - that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12** Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13** Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14** Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

- 15 One of Israel’s northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia’s Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob’s first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

1		2			3		4		5		6	
7					8							
	9			10		11		12		13		14
15												
16												
17	18			19	20		21					
			22									23
24								25				
26							27					

Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

Contact Numbers for Local Groups



Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 4.45 pm to 6.00 pm
Leader - Mrs B Travis
Tel: 0114 2453504

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm
Leader - Mrs M. Myers
Tel: 0114 2452452

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall
Tel: 0114 2468866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 2461289

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 2464714
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm
2nd Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 2402398

If you would like your local group advertised please contact:

Mrs P Blackburn  0114 2468453

Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre
Monday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Wednesday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Secretary –Carol Travis

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm
Leader - Mrs J Steel
0114 2460218
Thursday 6.00 -7.15 pm
Rachael Otter 0114 2461752

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mr. E. Buttimer
Tel: 0114 2586935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 2209212

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Practices - 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Seniors - Wednesdays
Up to 13 yrs - Thursdays
14 yrs to 17 yrs - Fridays
Manager - Steve Fletcher
Secretary – Joe Webster
Tel: 0114 2452518
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com



Useful Contacts



Vicarage Revd. Daniel Hartley 0114 2570002

Churchwardens: Mr A Hill 0114 2469154
 Mr T. Proctor 0114 2460373
 Mrs A Hackett 0114 2467159
 Mrs A Sidebottom 0114 2460929

Readers: Mrs P Clarke 0114 2577191
 Mrs N Priest 0114 2461729
 Mrs S Dale 0114 2467348

Pastoral Workers: Mrs S Hartshorne 0114 2845381
 Mrs P Wood 0114 2465086

Church Office:

Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30—11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am -12.00 pm 0114 2450106

Church Choir Practice in Church

Fri 7:30pm - Contact: Don Knott 0114 2468430

Music Group Practice in Church

Thurs 7:30pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker 0114 2460746

Mother's Union in Gatty Hall

1st Wednesday 1:00 pm

Contact: Maureen Lambert 0114 2469690

Ecclesfield ladies Group in Gatty Hall

Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Linda Waldron 0114 2463091

 or Joan Fisher 0114 2469914

Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry

Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr P Hirst 0114 2862766

Gatty Hall Bookings,

Contact: Mrs M Roberts 0114 2463993

Baptisms: Contact – Revd. Daniel Hartley 0114 2570002

Weddings: Contact - Revd. Daniel Hartley 0114 2570002

Vicar's e-mail vicar.ecclesfield@gmail.com

Office e-mail office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com

Magazine e-mail magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com



Christmas Crafts for Children

At St. Mary's - Ecclesfield

(Ages 5 -11)

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm.

On Wednesday 21st December 2011.

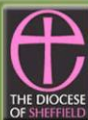
Cost - £2.00 per child.

Please complete a slip and bring it with you to the church if you wish to come to the craft session.

Slips can be obtained from the church, parish magazine or downloaded at our web site:

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

See **Forthcoming Events** page.



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield