

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for August 2012

60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

First Words...

- **Patronal Festival** – Sunday 9th September. Come along at 10 o'clock to celebrate our Patronal Festival. Parish Communion followed by coffee and cakes!
- **Church in August** – we're still open! Every Sunday at 10 o'clock we meet for our Parish Communion Service. All are welcome. If you've got friends or relatives staying then bring them along.
- **Olympic Games** – Hopefully when you read this we'll already have a few gold medals. Say a prayer for Team GB and for all the competitors.

Daniel Hartley



Prayer for Bible Sunday

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn
and inwardly digest them that,
through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of
everlasting life, which you have given us
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Front Cover – Lytch Gate – Dressed for a wedding August 2010
Back Cover – Jubilee Concert Poster

<p>Editorial Apology – We regret that due to a printing error the Chapeltown Aerials advert was misprinted in the July 2012 issue. This error has been corrected in the on-line version and should not re-occur.</p>
--

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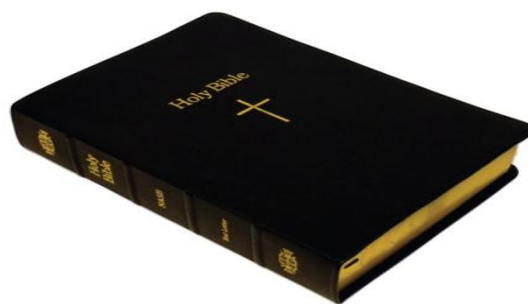
Tuesday afternoon – 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm

Everyone welcome, come along and join the fun.

For more information please telephone
Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

The Vicars' Letter

The Bible



“Make sure they read their Bibles!”. This was a piece of advice that I received from a colleague before I arrived in Ecclesfield. He was convinced that an increased awareness of the Bible is the bedrock on which to build future Church growth. I think that he was right. The Bible contains a rich deposit of faith, of witness, of teaching and of reflection. It is read at every Church service, at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, at Communion Services, at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The Bible is an unfolding account of God’s interaction with creation and it is to be cherished, celebrated and studied.

The reason that we read the Bible at every Church service is that we seek to allow ourselves to be shaped by its contents. We seek to allow the stories of Adam, Eve, Noah, Moses, Samuel, Saul and David to open our hearts and minds to a deeper knowledge of God. We seek to allow the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah to speak to us today as much as they spoke to those who were looking for a Messiah 2000 years ago. We seek to allow the stories of Jesus to transform our everyday existence as our vision is drawn to the coming Kingdom of God.

At times the Bible can present itself to us as a daunting challenge, but this need not be the case. There are all sorts of Bible notes and study guides that can assist us in our own daily readings. The month of August may be a time when you find a little more opportunity than normal to read the Bible.

If you get that time then go for it. Pick up a Bible and read. The Gospel according to Mark is always a good place to start if you’re not sure. Frequent reading of the Bible brings you closer to God. It enriches your relationship with God, it enriches your relationship with others and it certainly enriches your relationship with yourself.

Daniel Hartley

The Bishops' Letter, August 2012

'The Gift of Rest'

Here's a good ice-breaker question for a party or a family meal. Which of the Ten Commandments do you think is broken most often in Britain in 2012?

I think my answer would be number 4. What's the fourth commandment I hear you cry? "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Six days shall you labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God: you shall not do any work".



The Sabbath commandment is not primarily about gathering for worship (our relationship with God is broadly covered by the first three commandments). The Sabbath commandment is about making time for the simple and holy activity of rest. Sabbath is about being able to draw a boundary line between when we are working and when we are not.

The roots of the Sabbath commandment are written into the story of the beginnings of the universe in Genesis 1 and 2. You will know that the first chapter of the bible describes the creation of the heavens and the earth in six "days". There is a strong theme in the creation story of bringing order out of chaos, about separating one thing from another and about naming.

And on the seventh day, God himself rests and reflects and looks on all that has been made. That is why, we are told, God blesses the seventh day and declares it holy. Rest and re-creation are written into the fabric of creation.

The idea of rest is good news for our society at the present time. Those of us who are working find ourselves working longer hours than ever before. The boundaries between work and home are more difficult to maintain. This is partly because of technology: we can look at email on the smartphone wherever we are.

But it's also partly because as a society we are losing the deep knowledge of our Jewish and Christian faith which equips us to distinguish between work and rest and which encourages to make sure we live in a healthy rhythm.

Sabbath time is not just important for those who go out to work. It is important for those who work in the home, for those who gift their time in the community, for those in Christian ministry. There needs to be in all our lives the time when we are deeply refreshed by doing nothing: times when we stand back and reflect on what we have made.

Take some time this month to set aside some days for Sabbath, for holy rest, and for re-creation.

+Steven



RUTH

The Book of Ruth is one of the shortest books in the Old Testament and it tells the story of a girl who came from Moab. Ruth married one of 2 brothers, both of whom died. Her husband's mother decided to leave Moab and to return home to Bethlehem. Orpah, the wife of the other brother, stayed in Moab but rather than leave Naomi old and alone Ruth went with her saying, 'Where you go, I will go; your people shall be my people, and your God my God'.

Ruth and Naomi were poor and had to search for food but were protected by Naomi's relative Boaz. In time Boaz married Ruth and they had a son called Obed who in turn was grandfather to King David the founder of the royal line which led to the birth of a another boy at Bethlehem, the baby Jesus.

Naomi and Ruth both knew what it was to be a stranger in a foreign land but they supported each other. The story of Ruth shows us the love and loyalty that can hold a single family together.

RELATIVELY....

How are these people in the Bible related to each other? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Simon and Andrew (Mark, chapter 1)
2. Miriam, Aaron and Moses (Exodus, chapter 2)
3. Eunice and Timothy (Acts, chapter 16)
4. Lazarus, Mary and Martha (John, chapter 11)
5. Boaz and Ruth (Ruth)
6. Cain and Abel (Genesis, chapter 4)
7. Elizabeth and Zechariah ((Luke, chapter 1)
8. Ham and Noah (Genesis, chapter 5)



Did you hear about the little boy that they named after his father?

They called him dad!

1. brothers
2. sister & brothers
3. mother & son
4. brother & sisters
5. married
6. brothers
7. married
8. father & son



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Cricket St. Thomas. Somerset.

We set off on our holiday to Cricket St. Thomas on an overcast Monday, which cleared up along the M5. The main building of this Warners Resort was the Manor House used in “To the Manor Born” the T.V. series, they haven’t spoilt the house but it has a magnificent curved staircase that we did not see on television with superb paintings on the walls.



The grounds are beautiful with a river running the length of the estate and unusual bronze sculptures of children playing games, handstands and pillow fights etc., it also has a miniature railway travelling around the lakeside from a wooded area complete with tunnel to the Italian restaurant of the Hotel.

In the middle of the complex is the Church of St. Thomas. There has been a church at Cricket since Saxon times, and the present one dates from 1820 built after a fire destroyed the previous one. There is a large marble memorial dedicated to Admiral Nelson’s Brother the Reverend William Nelson, Earl Nelson who is buried with his brother in St. Paul’s Cathedral.



St Thomas’s church is very much alive today we enjoyed the Communion Service on Thursday and there are Weddings, Christenings and blessings too.

We travelled to the Jurassic Coast to Bridport, West Bay and Lyme Regis on the Tuesday in unbelievably warm and sunny weather with one sharp shower en route. The following day was just the same in Seamer and Sidmouth pictured above.

PB

The Mothers' Union outing to Harewood House

On Wednesday 4th July 34 members of the MU and their friends set out for a trip to Harewood House. We were very fortunate with the weather during this summer of floods and heavy downpours.

On our entry to the house we were split into two groups and taken by guides on a two hour tour – extremely interesting and the guides were most knowledgeable.



The house was built from 1759 to 1771 for Edwin Lascelles, whose family had bought the estate after making its fortune in the West Indies through Customs positions, slave trading and lending money to planters. The house was designed by the architects John Carr and Robert Adam. Many of the rooms have fantastic Adam ceilings with carpets designed to match the ceiling. Much of the furniture is by the eighteenth-century English furniture designer Thomas Chippendale, who came from nearby Otley. The grounds were designed by Capability Brown.

Since 1996, part of the house's grounds have been used as the Beckindale village in the ITV soap opera Emmerdale, which has been based in two different Yorkshire villages since its inception 24 years earlier.

The house is still the family home of the Lascelles family. David Lascelles is the eighth Earl. His grandmother was Mary, Princess Royal, daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. She also lived at the house, died there in 1965 and is buried in the crypt of the church.

During both World Wars the house served as a convalescent hospital for the many wounded servicemen.

Many of us travelled on a small train to the church on the estate which was another experience – certainly sitting on the back and really holding on around the corners.

As we travelled home along the M1 the clouds burst and did it rain !! However on arriving back in Ecclesfield it was once again fine.

We all had a really enjoyable day.

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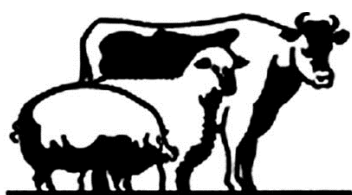
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Will You Remember Them - Afghanistan

Interview with Former Prisoner Said Musa's Daughter.

Christian convert Said Musa was imprisoned on 31st May 2010 on charges of apostasy. After nine months of beatings and mistreatment, he was released following intense diplomatic pressure on the Afghan government. Several months after his release, he was allowed to leave Afghanistan and resettle in a foreign country with his wife and six children. The family now live in a small apartment, and have found a church that supports them. All the children go to school, and one of the children, who is disabled, attends a school for children with special needs.

A Christian charity has helped with support for the family since the beginning of their ordeal and recently spoke to Lalla, one of Said Musa's teenage daughters. Lalla says, "We're doing well, but we still have to get used to our new home. We had to move very quickly when we left our country, so unfortunately we could not take many things with us. The people who helped us took very good care of us. They gave us things for our household.

"I can remember that (when they became Christians) my parents were really glad with their new-found faith. My father used to be a friendly man, but after his conversion he became even nicer. My parents didn't dare tell the family about their conversion. When it became known to them and my father was in prison, we all had to flee because of threats to the family. That was very scary.

"I am also a believer in God. For the first time in my life I now have my own Bible. In the church I follow Bible lessons. I'm very thankful to God that He's taking care of us. I even have new friends now." Finally, Lalla asked, "Please pray for the Christians in Afghanistan. For them it is very difficult, my father told me. Thank you for your prayers and sympathy. (Names changed for security reasons)

Please Pray.

- That Musa and his family would overcome the trauma of his imprisonment and of having to leave their country and that he would find work and a place in the church.
- That Musa's children can make new friends, in their new country.
- In Afghanistan there are 38,000 mosques but not a single church building. Please pray that, despite not having a place to meet, the church would flourish and Christians would grow in their knowledge of God.

JD

25th Sheffield (Ecclesfield) Scout Group - Camp 2012-07-05

Back to Basics'

As our centenary celebrations continue over 2012 our Groups main camp of the year took us back in time to 1912 and traditional Scouting skills, hence our 'Back to basics' theme. But with the Olympics rapidly approaching, part of the camp was also set aside to celebrate the torches arrival in Ecclesfield and to give our members a chance to get into the Olympic spirit.

Our destination was 'Silverwood' on the outskirts of Barnsley, a camp site set in a large clearing surrounded by woodland by the village of Silkstone. The site is perfect for the kind of camp we wanted this year, but also provided us with 2 buildings to take advantage of. A training room to house all our equipment and a 2 storey building called 'The Lodge' to provide sleeping accommodation, well stocked kitchen, shower facilities and a large main hall to provide meals and entertainment.

Friday night saw tents pitched and beds laid out, followed by a wide game strictly for bomb disposal experts only. Just fun of course and a little 'make believe', different coloured balls had to be found and brought back to Leaders in particular ways or they might explode! With our Olympic element, teams were divided into countries and after adding up the scores, it was congratulations to Russia for winning the first event.

Supper followed and a DVD before bed – for some at least, the excitement of being away at camp keeps some up for hours.

Saturday saw the main part of our camp, pizza and pancakes cooked on an open fire, a walk round the site learning about compasses and map reading, tracking signs and how to light fires in traditional ways, building shelters in the woods and helping to construct a piece of playground equipment as part of pioneering skills. Scramble net and rope swing as well as lots of bars to climb on, a truly fabulous construction built with the help of the S.A.S.! (that's Scout Active Support). Thanks to all the Leaders and helpers for providing and helping with all the activities.

Evening activities were hampered by torrential rain, but were we down hearted, perhaps a little, but on with the games of football, in and out of muddy puddles, (That's you Cameron!) and for some, trying to play chess on a big outdoor board using themselves as the pieces. Wet tents meant moving inside for some, but for most another night under canvas in the wind and rain.

Sunday morning brought better conditions and a break in the weather was a perfect opportunity to get the tents down while they were dry (ish), so after breakfast it was pack away and tidy before the start of the 'Ecclesfield Olympiad'.

Back into teams to take part in running races, egg and spoon race, team stilt walking, toilet roll catching challenge (Don't ask), Lego tower building relay and of course everybody's favourite international welly wanging (Take cover!).



To be honest - we're not happy with some of the aspects of the 'sleeping bag over the head' assault course

A Traditional ending to the camp with the lowering of the Union Flag in the main hall, certificates presented to all to commemorate the weekend, the presentation of a Beaver Scout Bronze Award (congratulations Mack), and the investiture of one of our Scouts before parents started to arrive to get back home and sleep.

A huge thank you to all our members who came, thank you to their parents for bringing them and helping us to move lots of equipment, thanks to the cooking team for feeding us and working hard in the kitchen and finally thanks to Silverwood.

Here's to the next 100 years 25th.
Yours in Scouting.

John Otter (Assistant Group Scout Leader)

Ecclesfield Scout Group.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had an evening on the 25th June when, along with most of Ecclesfield we went out to welcome the Olympic Torch. We met on Yew Lane along with siblings, parents and grandparents joining us. The Beavers were armed with their own version of the Olympic torch which they had made during meetings and the rest of us were given flags, balloons, whistles and red white and blue hats etc., to get us all in the mood. When the parade arrived it didn't disappoint. We waved, shouted and cheered everything and everybody. When the last of the parade had disappeared over the hill we returned to the H.Q. for a picnic and to talk about the "once in a lifetime" event we had just witnessed.

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here.

ACROSS: 1, Amazed. 4, Others. 8, Peter. 9, Zebbedee. 10, Accuser.
11, Endue. 12, Scripture. 17, Shrub. 19, Abashed. 21, Foolish. 22,
Upset. 23, Loathe. 24, Lesser.
DOWN: 1, Appeal. 2, Attacks. 3, Earns. 5, Tableau. 6, Ended. 7,
Shekel. 9, Zarephath. 13, Rubbish. 14, Ephesus. 15, Useful. 16,
Editor. 18, Rhoda. 20, Abuse.

Quotes from Albert Einstein

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction."

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

"Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."

"I want to know God's thoughts; the rest are details."

"The only real valuable thing is intuition."

"A person starts to live when he can live outside himself."

"I am convinced that He (God) does not play dice."

"God is subtle but he is not malicious."

"Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind."

"Great spirits have often encountered violent opposition from weak minds."

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."

"Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen."

"God does not care about our mathematical difficulties. He integrates empirically."

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

"My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind."

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." (Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton)

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school."

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed."

Diary for the Month of August

[illegible]

Thursday 2nd 9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th

9th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Tuesday 7th 7.30 pm Prayer Meeting in Church

Wednesday 8th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Thursday 9th 9.30 am Holy Communion

2.00 pm Service at Hartwell House

Sunday 12th

10th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 15th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Thursday 16th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th

11th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 22nd 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Thursday 23rd 9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th

12th Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 29th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Thursday 30th 9.30 am Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

15th July	Jordan Paul Darwent
15th July	Scarlett Fay Sutton
15th July	Olivia-Mai Clark
29th July	Jack Higgins

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

Weddings

7th July	Daniel Schofield and Jessica Stacey
14th July	Tobias Pitts and Natalie Coldwell
15th July	Christopher Austick and Michelle Gibbons
21st July	Scott Harrison and Rachel Coy

*May each be to the other strength in need a comfort in sorrow
and a companion in joy.*

Funerals

Burial

20th June	Pamela Lucas	65
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Cremation

13th July	Lilian Firth	93
13th July	Cyril Stubbs	85
16th July	Anne Sheldon	

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

5th August	K & L Atkin
12th August	Vicki & Michael Grey
19th August	A. Higgins & Cheryl
26th August	Vacant



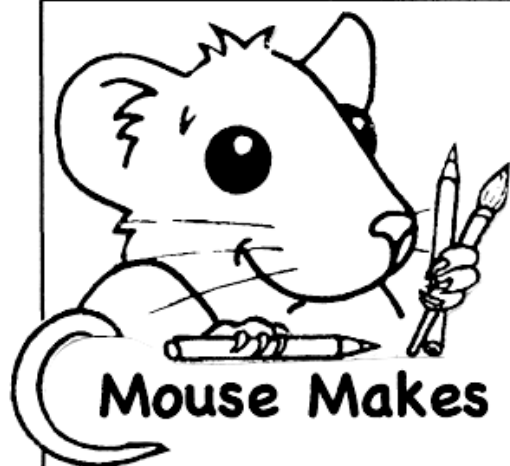
The Gardening Year August 2012

Raspberries – Among the most delicious of summer fruits, raspberries are grown throughout the cooler parts of Europe. A site in full sun will produce the best crops, but the canes will also thrive in partial shade and will yield well even during a cool, damp summer. For the space they occupy raspberries give a higher yield than any fruit other than strawberries. As they also freeze well retaining almost all their flavour they warrant a place in most gardens. There are two kinds of raspberries, summer – fruiting varieties that produce fruit of the previous seasons shoots during July and August, and autumn varieties that fruit on current season's growth from mid-September onwards.

Raspberries are highly susceptible to virus diseases and it is important to start by purchasing one year old canes disease free from a reputable nursery. If possible plant the canes in November, otherwise plant at any time up to March. For each row dig a trench about 9.in. wide and 3ft.deep. Set the canes in this 18 ins. apart with their root well spread out. Cover the roots with soil and firm down, after planting cut down each cane to 12 in. above soil level. This will prevent fruit being borne the following summer but the vigour of the plant will be increased to ensure better fruiting the following years. Apply a mulch of compost, manure or peat around the plants each April to help feed them and to conserve moisture. You can also improve yields by applying 1oz. of sulphate of potash in January and 1oz. of sulphate of ammonia in March. Control unwanted suckers as well as weeds by shallow hoeing or by smothering with rotted straw or compost. Give plants plenty of water in summer.

The first July after planting insert an 8ft. post into the ground at both ends of each row sinking the posts 2ft. For summer fruiting varieties space three 12-13 gage galvanised wires 2½ft. 3½ft. and 5½ft. from the ground and stretch them between each pair of posts, tie the canes to the wires with soft string. Each summer after picking summer fruiting varieties remove the canes that have carried the berries by severing them just above soil level. Select the strongest current year canes and tie to the wires spacing them 3-4 ins. apart, cut out the remaining new shoots; pull out suckers well away from the rows. In February, cut off the top of each cane to a good bud, a few inches above the top wire. Autumn fruiting raspberries can be treated the same way as summer fruiting canes but cut the canes of autumn fruiting varieties down to ground level when they have finished fruiting.

Colin Williams



Do you remember to
PRAISE and **THANK**
God for all He is and
all He does?

Psalm 89 verse 52
says:

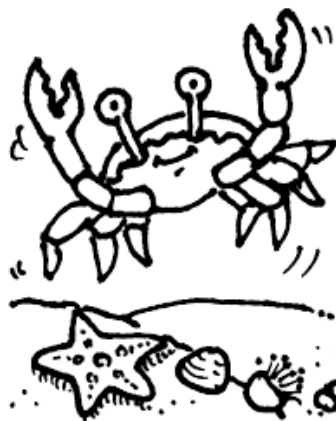
**"The Lord
deserves praise
for ever more"**

Cut out and keep
these cards to remind
you to praise God at
all times!



**"You are my
source of
strength -
I will sing
praises to you"**

Psalm 69:34



**"Praise God,
O heaven
and earth,
seas and all
creatures in
them"**

Psalm 69:34



**"Shout out praise to God
all the earth!"**

Psalm 66:1

**"I will praise
the Lord
who guides
me"**

Psalm 16:7



**"O God..
..I will
sing and
PRAISE
you!"**

Psalm 57:7

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The way I see it: Holidays and Holy days

August: holidays, traffic jams, queues at airports, fractious children, fish and chips on the promenade or paella around the pool. That's how we think of this month when the nation goes off duty - all except the people, of course, who look after us while we're enjoying ourselves.

The tradition of holidays in August arose from the date of the harvest (everyone would be free to help the farmers gather in the crops 'ere the winter storms begin'). Thus the school holidays were fixed to meet the same need, and the university terms, and finally GCSE's and A levels. We are now trapped in a system that commits us to taking our holidays when the best weather (June) is over, the days are getting shorter and wet weather is always hovering just ahead.

But never mind. With dauntless grit we Brits set off determined to enjoy a week or fortnight away, preferably being waited on. In the sixties the foreign holiday became almost the norm - *viva Espana!* One had to return home with a tan, a large sombrero and a few bottles of cheap Spanish wine. The real attraction, of course, was the certainty of sunshine. Above all else, we like to be warm on our holidays. This year, with the jubilee and the Olympics, it may be that holidays in the UK will take precedence - or even, given the recession, holidays at home. No guarantee of sunshine, but at least it's cheap.

I remember holidays as a child. We'd usually go to a boarding house (as they were called), breakfast and evening meal but you had to be 'out' in between. That was lovely on warm and sunny days, but painful when you were dragging your bucket and spade around the town trying to find somewhere to get out of the rain. Yet my memories of those distant holidays are good - my two brothers and me, mum and dad, ice creams, the end of the pier show, the pictures on a wet afternoon ... and of course no lessons.

In the pressure and anxieties of daily life, we all need holidays - times to relax, enjoy time with those we love, smell the air and hear the sea-gulls. I like to think of them as the Sabbaths of the year, just as Saturday (or Sunday) is the Sabbath of the week. Making our holidays holy-days (the original meaning of the word) doesn't mean being miserably pious, but making space in our lives for the 'still small voice of calm' to speak to us. As an adult, one little pleasure for me on holiday is to go to a church as unlike my usual one as possible. After all, holidays are meant to be different!

*Author: Canon David Winter
Former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.*

The Only Way is Ethics

The on-going revelations of immorality in the banking sector and the narrative of the Leveson Enquiry are just two examples of the United Kingdom being “morally and culturally adrift” the Bishop of Sheffield, Dr Steven Croft, told his Diocesan Synod in Sheffield.

He added: “Our nation is beginning to see the consequences of neglecting ethics in individual lives and families and in the lives of the professions and our institutions.”

“There is a sense in our nation that something is badly wrong at the present time,” the Bishop said.

In a wide-ranging address Dr Croft said that the Church had a role to play in rediscovering “a sense of moral values and moral purpose guiding the lives of individuals, of communities, and of our great institutions and of our country.”

Dr Croft said that City workers and bankers should have basic teaching in ethics and that most currently “had hardly any moral or ethical framework for their decision making.”

He paid tribute to work of the charity Kids Company www.kidsco.org.uk which feeds over 2000 young people their main meal of the day as a result of increasing levels of UK poverty: “The projects are brilliant but the need for them is scandalous.”

Bishop Croft also urged the Church of England not to forget its unique voice in society. He believes it is too easy to be consumed by internal arguments and debate and urged “the Church of England be the Church of England and to provide a clear and distinctive ethical voice in local and national debate.”

He added: “This is a moment for the Church to hold consistently to the vision in the Scriptures of a just and secure society.”

Diocese of Sheffield Media Information

A Man of Prayer

A few weeks ago Kath and I drove up to Sunderland to hear a concert by Bruce Springsteen in the Stadium of Light. Having stayed overnight in Beamish we decided on the way back home that we would call in at Durham and pay Durham Cathedral a visit, which we did.

On the north side of the North Quire Aisle is the remains of a Chantry dedicated to Bishop Skirlaw (1388-1406). The remains of this Chantry comprise a stone bench bearing his coat of arms and this bench is now called the Bedesmen's bench. According to the notice displayed on the bench Durham Cathedral's Bedesmen were originally eight elderly and sometimes infirm men from the 'parish' appointed by and paid for by the Crown. Their duties 'as far as their strength shall allow' involved helping to light the Cathedral and to ring the bells.

These days Durham Cathedral's Bedesmen may be men or women from all walks of life and their role in the cathedral is one of assisting visitors and members of the congregation. They can be identified quite easily as they wear maroon gowns.

Not having heard the name used before I decided that when we got back home I would look up Bedesman. So I did...

Bedesman, or beadsman (Medieval English **bede**, prayer, from Old English **biddan**, to pray; literally "a man of prayer") was generally a pensioner or almsman whose duty it was to pray for his benefactor.

In Scotland there were public almsmen supported by the king and expected in return to pray for his welfare and that of the state. These men wore long blue gowns with a pewter badge on the right arm, and were nicknamed Blue Gowns. Their number corresponded to the king's years, an extra one being added each royal birthday. They were privileged to ask alms throughout Scotland. On the king's birthday each bedesman received a new blue gown, a loaf, a bottle of ale, and a leathern purse containing a penny (Scottish shilling) for every year of the king's life. On the pewter badge which they wore were their name and the words "pass and repass," which authorized them to ask alms. The last beadsman died in Aberdeen in 1988.

In consequence of its use in this general sense of pensioner, "bedesman" was long used in English as equivalent to "servant." The word had a special sense as the name for those almsmen attached to cathedrals and other churches, whose duty it was to pray for the souls of deceased benefactors. A relic of pre-Reformation times, these old men still figure in the accounts of English cathedrals.

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Prayers and Poems Page

On Going to Bed

As my head rests on my pillow
Let my soul rest in your mercy.
As my limbs relax on my mattress
Let my soul relax in your peace.
As my body finds warmth beneath the blankets,
Let my soul find warmth in your love.
As my mind is filled with dreams,
Let my soul be filled with visions of heaven.

*A prayer of Johann Freylinghausen (1670 – 1739)
of the German Pietist movement.*

Take – and receive

Take, Lord, and receive all my freedom, my memory, my intelligence and my will – all that I have and possess. You, Lord, have given those things to me. I now give them back to you, Lord. All belongs to you. Dispose of these gifts according to your will. I ask only for your love and your grace, for they are enough for me.

*A prayer of Ignatius of Loyala (1491 – 1556)
founder of the Society of Jesus.*

Cities of the Ruthless

Father, you are my God
I will worship You,
You're the only High God
Wonderful and True.

Cities of the ruthless
Shall revere Your name,
Strongholds of the callous,
Shall cause no more pain.

Helper of the helpless
Refuge from the storm,
Comfort for the hopeless
Rescue the forlorn.

God, who calms all fears
Soothes each troubled sigh,
You will wipe all tears
From each weeping eye.

Death shall be confounded
Mourning be unknown,
Joy shall be unbounded
When Your power is shown.

Father, you are my God
I will worship You,
You're the only High God
Wonderful and True.

By Nigel Beeton

Transfiguration

On the cloudy mountain
they spoke about his departure:
light shone from him
as he bridged two rivers,
slid eternity into time,
just for a moment

and we amazingly could hardly stay awake;
our eyes were heavy, unseeing –
almost preferring sleep to glory

until a shout disturbed the magic,
piercing the fragile
shekinah sheet,
dissolving the picture
and striking us all dumb,

quite dumb – but then
a stiller, smaller voice
came from the cloud:
we woke and listened then

by Tim Lenton

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

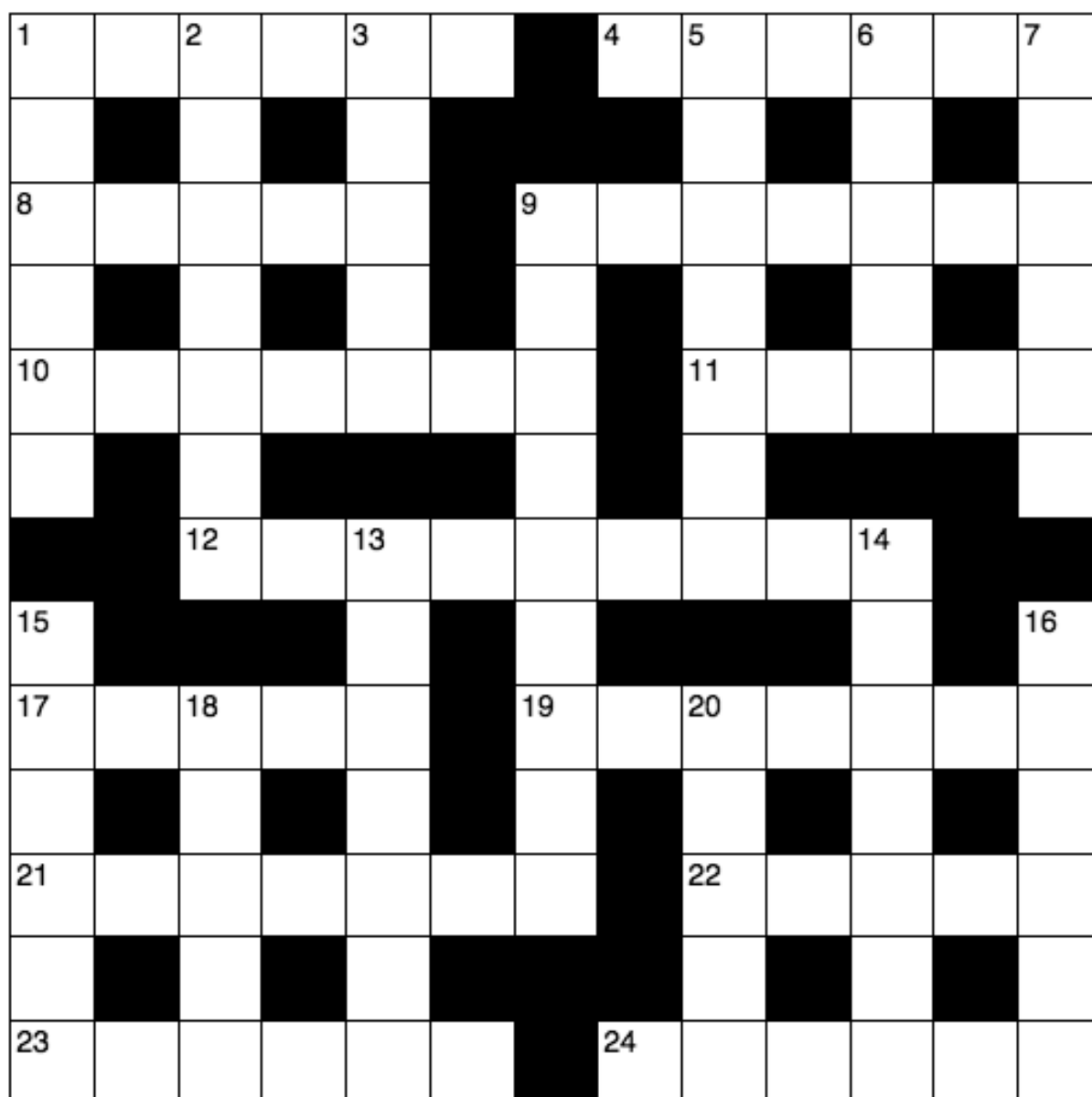
- 1** 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Clues Down

- 1** To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
15 See 12 Across
16 Rioted (anag.) (6)

18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)

20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 14.

Humour

Row - Many an argument is sound – merely sound.

Good and bad - An honest confession is good for the soul - but probably bad for the reputation.

Hobby - It seems that those who have hobbies rarely go crazy. But what about those of us who have to live with those of them who have hobbies?

More Humour

Painting lesson

There was a painter called Jock, who used to cheat by thinning paint to make it go further. For some time he got away with this. Then came the day that the local church needed painting. Jock put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set up his scaffolding, bought the paint – and thinned it down.

A week later, as Jock was nearly finished painting the church, there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, the rain poured down, and the thinned paint ran everywhere down the walls into the churchyard. Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke... "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

The purpose of the font

That Sunday our Family Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for – and the answer came back: "For washing babies' hair"!

Coffee Shop *at St Mary's Church*

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

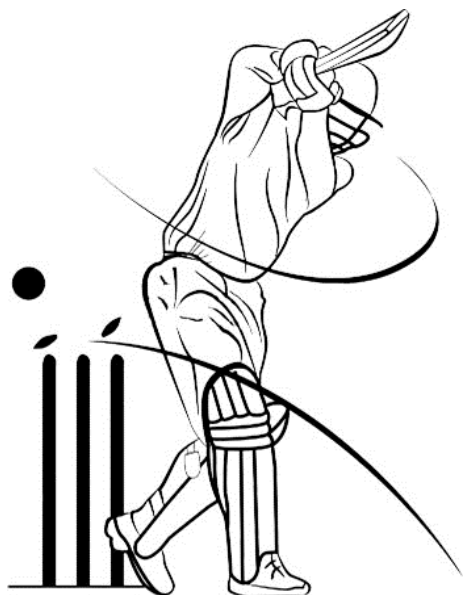
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All Welcome

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The wet weather has dominated the season so far although there are signs that we may just get a summer. With only two weekends not affected by the weather, the season has been severely disrupted. Together with a number of injuries which have taken their toll, the first team is currently in mid- table in the Premier League but intriguingly are only 5 points behind the no 2 team and they remain in the Black Sheep Yorkshire Champions Trophy.

The second XI has been similarly affected and also sit in mid-table in Division 2. The Colts and juniors have fared better with the Colts at the top of their league. So an unpredictable season, affected by the weather and a number of injuries, enters the closing stages with everything to play for.

Do come and support your local club at Cinder Hill Lane. All local people are very welcome to use all the facilities in the pavilion on match days.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

Forthcoming senior matches at Cinder Hill Lane

4 th August	2 nd XI	v	Millhouses
11 th August	1st XI	v	Barnsley
18 th August	1 st XI	v	Wath
25 th August	2 nd XI	v	Hallam
1 st September	1 st XI	v	Aston Hall
8 th September	2 nd XI	v	Wath
15 th September	1 st XI	v	Darfield

Andrew Robinson

Contact Numbers for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 4.45 pm to 6.00 pm
Leader - Mrs B Travis
Tel: 0114 245 3504

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson
Tel: 0114 257 8609

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall
Tel: 0114 246 8866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 246 1289

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 246 4714
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 245 2780

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 246 0218
Thursday 6.00 -7.15 pm
Rachael Otter 0114 246 1752

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mr E. Buttimer
Tel: 0114 258 6935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 220 9212

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 245 2518
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

If you would like your local group advertised please contact:
Mrs P Blackburn  0114 246 8453

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