# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



# Church Magazine for May 2012

60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

#### First Words...

- May Queen Service On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00 pm (please note the new time) we welcome the May Queen into Church for the May Queen Service. This will be a great occasion when we celebrate the continuing importance of the Girl Guides within the life of Ecclesfield and the life of this nation. This will be a special day for the May Queen and for her attendants, make sure it's a special day for you.
- **Ascension Day** We celebrate Holy Communion at 7.30 pm.
- **Pentecost** We meet at the Co-op at 9.30 am and walk to the Church grounds for 10.00 am. Please join us as we complete our Easter celebrations for 2012.

Daniel Hartley

### <u>\*1\*</u>

#### May In Bloom

A poem to use as a prayer

May is so beautiful:
Orchards of heaven
Orchards are fair;
Grow with a grace,
Branches of fruit trees
And like a blessing
Make gardens of air.
Perfume the place.

Flowers of fragrance Each tree in blossom, Bloom in the light; Each lovely spray,

Fall like the snowflakes In this month of Our Lady,

Showering white. Bring glory to May.

Helen Maring
The Magnificat. Volume LXVIII. Number 1. May 1941.

Front Cover – Easter – Flowers and Candle 2012 Back Page: Santa María la Real de La Almudena - the Catholic cathedral in Madrid.

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#### The Vicars' Letter

This year the Feast of Pentecost falls on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Here in Ecclesfield we'll celebrate with our traditional Pentecost Walk, starting from the Co-op at 9.30 and making our way to the Church. At 10 o'clock we'll then celebrate our outdoor service of Pentecost Praise – weather permitting.

Pentecost is a key part of the Church's life. A day on which we remember the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the birth of the Church. For me it's always been a day when we remember that God trusts in humanity. The disciples have walked with the earthly Jesus both before and after his death and resurrection. Now Jesus has ascended to be with his Heavenly Father and has sent his Spirit to continue the relationship between God and humanity. The Holy Spirit has been sent to unlock a potential that has lay dormant in humanity. A potential to make real the kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdom of man. No longer are we to be people who have a list of excuses as to why we "can't". God has sent his Spirit upon us and now we "can".

Human life can be difficult, challenging and heart-breaking. We can, and have, sunk to great depths. But equally it can be the source of immeasurable joy and creativity. Left to our own devices we tend to hide our humanity in the darkness of sin. Yet in Christ, through the power of the Spirit, we are able to light up this humanity again. We are able to raise ourselves up time and time again. We are able to see God's activity and purpose in all that we experience. We are able to chart a path through the complexities of life as we hold fast to the simplicity of faith. There are so many times in our lives when, facing a huge challenge, we instinctively want to give up. At times we succumb to this temptation, but most of the time we find the strength to move forward. This strength comes from God but it is only through our own action and conviction that this strength becomes real in our lives.

Pentecost reminds us that having faith in God is not a licence for inactivity. If we sit around and wait for God to act then we have singularly failed to see that God has already acted. He has sent the Holy Spirit upon generation after generation of Christians and he has sent the Holy Spirit upon us. As Christ's earthly body has ascended to heaven so he has a new body on earth: you, me – the Church!

Daniel Hartley

#### The Bishops' Letter, May 2012

#### 'On Marriage'

Our society is in the midst of a number of serious debates about marriage at the present time. There are questions about same sex unions and marriage. There are questions around the frequency of marriage breakdown and the pain caused to all concerned. There are questions around the support for marriage and family life through the tax system. There are questions around forced marriages in some sections of the There are questions around the renewal of community. marriages which have run dry of life. There are questions around the wedding industry and the ramping up of the cost of weddings so they become unaffordable. There are questions around the



presentation of marriage in endless romantic comedies as being basically an experience of happy ever after.

The whole Church has a responsibility to support the institution of marriage between a man and a woman as part of the God-given ordering of human life, blessed and affirmed by Jesus Christ and also to listen and respond carefully and wisely to each of these current debates.

Our focus in public debate should not be about what we are against but about what we are for. It is not the role of the Church to add to the burden of single parents or those whose marriages have broken down, or the gay community.

But it is the responsibility of the Church to speak simply clearly and realistically about Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding. We need a steady, faithful, compassionate exploration of the Christian understanding of marriage, of what marriage offers and the gift of Christian marriage to the whole of our society. If the Church does not put forward a positive vision for Christian marriage, who else will?

The Scriptures from beginning to end give us a vision of marriage as integral to God's vision for creation and God's gift. Here is a relationship of one man and one woman who commit themselves to each other in love throughout their lives publicly before family and friends and their wider society. That relationship is founded on mutual respect. Christian marriage is a relationship of equals. The relationship is founded on a pledged commitment which is deeper and longer lasting than feeling and emotion, though the emotional bonds of love are there.

Continues overleaf

Marriage is first and foremost for mutual support and friendship and companionship through the whole of life. A marriage is a place of tenderness and joy where a husband and wife's physical union strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. A marriage forms a new family unit in society. It provides a place where children are born and nurtured and can flourish. A strong marriage is a blessing to many people over several generations.

Marriage is intended to be permanent: a rock in a changing world. In an age where bonds between people are often short lived, marriage vows are taken for life: for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death us do part. Marriage is an exclusive relationship: the couple promise to leave father and mother and to forsake all others to put this one relationship at the centre of their lives. Nothing erodes a marriage faster than infidelity.

Marriage is a complete commitment. The most moving moment in any wedding ceremony is the exchange of rings. The bride and groom say to one another: with my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Apart from the bonds between parents and children, there is no deeper human commitment than this. Marriage changes and evolves over every period of life as a husband and wife continue to get to know one another and live out Christ's command to submit yourselves to one another in love.

Marriage is demanding. The qualities which make a good marriage are faithfulness, endurance, perseverance and love. These are as unfashionable as they are essential.

Certainly, Christian marriage is not for everyone. Jesus was not married. The Church teaches that it is absolutely possible to live a full human life without being married. Certainly, marriages go through difficulties. In those moments people need care and support to rebuild their relationship and enter a new chapter. Certainly marriages can break down and end. When they do, the Church must affirm God's love and forgiveness for both parties and the possibility of beginning again with the blessing of the Church.

But marriage remains central and it is marriage which has a special place in the Scriptures as a picture of the union between Christ and the Church: as picture, at its best, of sacrificial love and commitment; of healing grace; of God's love for all humanity; of the most special of special relationships.

If marriage is under threat in our society it is in part because people do not understand in full the vision for Christian marriage. We need to renew our commitment to teaching this part of our faith, especially to those who come to be married and who are already married.

+Steven Sheffield



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Plants will also be on sale in church

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<u>++++++++++++++++++++++++++</u>



# Spring Concert

"Come and hear our new repertoire"!

Saturday May 26th at 7.30 pm Grenoside Methodist Church

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#### Will You Remember Them

#### Nigeria.

A car bombing near a church in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna on Easter Sunday killed at least 40 people, while another blast later in a separate city caused a number of injuries.

The deadly explosion in Kaduna, an important cultural and economic centre in Nigeria's north, was a stark reminder of Christmas Day attacks that left dozens of people dead in Africa's most populous nation and largest oil producer. Motorcycle taxi drivers and residents who had stopped at a stall in the area to buy tea appeared to have borne the brunt of the blast. As news of the attack spread, security forces boosted patrols in key areas, including in the capital Abuja, where soldiers were sent to reinforce police posted near churches. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

At least one car said to be driven by a suicide bomber was believed to be involved. A police officer at the scene said a man believed to be a suicide bomber driving a car had been stopped at a checkpoint near the Evangelical Church of West Africa, and had turned back. He then drove to a nearby area in front of a hotel close to the Assemblies of God church, and detonated the bomb.

Services were going on at the time of the blast, but worshippers did not appear to have been affected, the casualties were people outside in the street. These not infrequent bomb attacks on or near Christian churches result in injury and death for people of both Christian and other faiths. Easter Sunday's bombing came as Pope Benedict XVI condemned, "savage terrorist attacks" against churches in Nigeria as part of his Easter message.

#### So we pray:

"Give peace in our time, O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God."

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Ecclesfield Cub Pack

#### Grand Day Out to See a Distant Galaxy

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March in the morning the cub's left Ecclesfield Scout hut on a coach to go to Jodrell Bank. After an hour and a half drive the Cub Pack finally arrived at Jodrell Bank on a bright sunny day. After Akela had collected the tickets we left the coach and our coats and jumpers and stepped out into the sunshine. In front of us was a gigantic radio telescope that was bigger than three or four houses on top of one another.



The cub pack split into small groups of three or four with an adult helper. I think most of the adults only came along to visit Jodrell Bank! In my group were Rachel, Alyssa and my Dad. We were very excited and had a quiz and crossword to do from information boards around the bottom of the radio telescope. We completed all the questions without any help. We could hear the telescope move because it was watching distant Galaxies, I wonder if they will ever see alien planets? In the Space Pavilion there were lots of interesting facts about space and you could see what the telescope was looking at, and I got a printout of the radio signal from a far, far away galaxy.

We had lunch outside in the sunshine we then had a session in a planetarium. It was a blown up planetarium and not very big so we all had to squeeze in, then a lady gave us a talk and show of all the stars and planets that we will be able to see at night. I have used mine at home and it's great to know what I am looking at in the sky.

Just before we got back to the coach we had time to spend our pocket money, I bought some post cards to remind me of the great day out. It was back on the coach I sat on the back seat with my friends. After the long journey home we arrived back in Ecclesfield and Akela presented us all with our Astronomer badge.

Can't wait for the next cub day out they are great.

Captain's Log by William Kirk, Star date 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012. www.jb.man.ac.uk/research/

#### Beaver Scouts Invade Magna!

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012, along with almost 400 other Beaver Scouts from across South Yorkshire, 12 Beavers, 1 young leader and 3 Leaders visited Magna in Rotherham for a Giant Beaver Sleepover. We arrived outside Magna between 6.00 and 6.30.p.m, and when all had arrived we booked in, and were shown to the Main Hall.



Following a fun Campfire we had supper of Muffins or Cookies and Crisps. The Beavers set their beds out for the night, the girls getting lots of space in an event shelter, while the boys had to fight for room. Thankfully they all found space. When all were ready for bed they watched "The Smurfs" DVD on a very small screen. After the DVD had finished it was into sleeping bags and lights out. The last of which I was told went to sleep around 3am. (It was nobody from Ecclesfield).

7 am. Sunday morning, everyone up, dressed and sleeping bags rolled back away. The Beaver Scouts enjoyed activities until breakfast at 8 am.

After breakfast we were put into groups, and were allowed to explore Magna. The first port of call for Don District Beavers Scouts was the shop, which isn't very big so as you can imagine was a bit of a squash, but we managed it and all Beavers bought something to take home with their spending money. From the shop we went to the outside play area and had lots of fun in the sun. \*I'm not sure who had the most fun the Leaders or the Beavers\*! We then went back inside and visited the EARTH zone, where the beavers got to play with diggers. From there we got to visit the AIR zone, where we walked over a wobbly suspension bridge, and to see how Tornados swirl round.

After lunch we went to the FIRE zone, where we dressed up as firemen and to see the fire Tornado swirl up. This seemed to interest the leaders more than the boys – who were busy exploring all the fun and interesting things. We had a chance to see "THE BIG BANG", which was very noisy. This told us how Steel in Sheffield/Rotherham used to be made. From here we went to the WATER zone – and all the Beavers got very wet indeed. They seemed to enjoy this zone the most.

We then returned to the main hall for our last activities of the day – we got to ride scooters round a course, walk a tight rope and play lots of games before all the others joined us back in the main hall for the short closing ceremony and home time.

At 4 pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 12 Beavers, 1 young Leader and 3 Leaders (all very, very tired) left Magna for home. I believe all (including me) had an early night.

Rachael Otter - Beaver Scout Leader.

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## Diary for the Month of May

Thursday 2nd	0.20 am	Hely Communion
Thursday 3rd	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion Ladies' Group – Trevor Page /
	7.30 pm	What makes you laugh?
Saturday 5th	10.00 am	Ecclesfield in Bloom Coffee Morning
Saturday Jui	10.00 aiii	Ecclesified in Bloom Coffee Worling
Sunday 6th		5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 9th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU in the Gatty Hall – Malcolm Nunn/
		Part II Rivelin Valley & City Centre
Thursday 10th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening
Sunday 13th		6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	8.30 am 10.00 am	•
		•
Monday 14th	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Monday 14th Tuesday 15th	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion
•	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church
Tuesday 15th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion Holy Communion
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am 9.30 am 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion Holy Communion Sunday after the Ascension
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am 9.30 am 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion Holy Communion Sunday after the Ascension Parish Communion
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th Sunday 20th	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am 9.30 am 7.30 pm	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion Holy Communion Sunday after the Ascension Parish Communion Evening Service
Tuesday 15th Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th  Sunday 20th  Wednesday 21st	10.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.30 am 9.30 am 7.30 pm 10.00 am 6.30 pm 10.30 am	Parish Communion Holy Communion PCC Prayer Meeting in Church Service at Eva Ratcliffe House Ascension Day Holy Communion Holy Communion Sunday after the Ascension Parish Communion Evening Service Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

Sunday 27th		Pentecost
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Pentecost Praise
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Monday 28th	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
Thursday 31st	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening

#### From the Registers

#### **Baptisms**

lst April	Summer Rose Gregory
lst April	Leah Ashley Smith
lst April	Katie Alice Ball
lst April	Lucy Nieve Ball
lst April	Katie Alice Ball

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

#### **Funerals**

#### Burial

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Francis Smith	89
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Kenneth Bool	68

#### Cremation

5th April	Maureen Ashmore	80
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Carole Price	69

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace.

#### Flower Rota

6th May	N. Priest & J. Rodber
13th May	P. Hawley & J. Hawksworth
20th May	Vacant
27th May	A. Briddock & I. Proctor



#### The Gardening Year – May 2012.

**Plums and Gages** – Plums introduced from France and Italy in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century were a staple fruit in Britain until the Second World War. Then unaccountably the popularity of the plum suddenly declined and many acres of orchards were turned over to other crops. The result of this slump is that plums are now comparatively expensive and therefore well worth growing in the garden.

The home gardener with only a small plot must however, plan carefully where to plant and what varieties to grow. A bush or half-standard tree may have a spread of 15ft or more and many varieties also require a nearby tree of different variety for cross pollination. The answer for the gardener with restricted space is to plant either a fan-shaped tree espalier or cordon. If there is space for only one tree chose a variety that is self-fertile that is, capable of setting fruit without being pollinated by another tree.

Varieties that are self-fertile are "Early Transparent Gage" and "Victoria" in my opinion the best plum on the market. Both plums and gages do best in full sun. It is essential to avoid frost pockets as plums flower early. They succeed in most well drained soils but on very acid soils top-dress with garden lime at the rate of 8oz per sq. yd. after planting. Plum trees can be planted at any time of the year if container grown, but the best time is from November to March but the earlier the better.

To plant dig a hole slightly wider than the spread of the roots make it sufficiently deep to allow the soil mark of the stem of the tree to be level with the surrounding soil after planting. When planting a bush or dwarf pyramid first hammer in a support or stake and place the tree against it secure the trunk to the stake with a proprietary three tie. Before planting a fan, cordon or espalier tree prepare the wire supports on walls or fences. Plant the trunk about 9in. from the wall or fence and slope it slightly inwards while replacing the soil. Spread out the branches of the tree evenly and tie them to the support wires with string or ties.

Every April apply sulphate of ammonia at the rate of 2oz. per sq. yd. plus a similar of sulphate of potash. Every third year add a dressing of super-phosphate at the rate of 2oz. per sq. yd. after applying the fertilizer mulch with compost or manure at the rate of a bucketful to the square yard, apply both the compost mulch and the manure mulch and the dressing of fertilizer to the soil covered by the spread of the branches. When weeding be careful not to disturb the roots or the tree will throw up suckers. If suckers do appear pull them up rather than cut them off. Plum tree branches are often brittle. If they snap under the weight of fruit sliver leaf or other diseases may enter the wound to avoid this start thinning a heavy crop in early June, but do not complete the final thinning to 2-3 in apart until after the natural June drop.

Colin Williams

#### MU Meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

#### Speaker - Sylvia Charles - 'God in my Garden'.

Sylvia began her talk by telling us she is the Coach for Chapeltown Garden Society and also writes for 'Look Local'. Her two daughters and six grandchildren are the love of her life but she also has a passion for Gardening.

Although not a professional gardener, she believes gardening is in her blood. She comes from a family of professional gardeners, her grandfather and uncle both grew flowers for showing and her mother's brother was the well-known Arthur Bower. Retirement from the Legal Service enabled Sylvia to fulfil her love of gardening by volunteering her services to other garden enthusiasts and also writing a book. She believes plants are like people. Some are brightly coloured and thrive in the sunshine. Others prefer the shade like shy people stand back from the limelight.

Plants in our garden can remind us of people and past acquaintances. They hold memories and help us to remember. Sylvia is sure God uses the garden and the miracles of nature to enrich our faith. All plants need nutrients, water and attention, just like we have roots in the church where we store and nourish our faith

'There is healing in a garden When one longs for peace and pardon Once through the gate no need to wait For God is in the garden'

G.L.

#### May Queen Concert

Ecclesfield Guides are busy practicing for their 68th Annual May Queen concert which will take place on 17th, 18th, 19th May. This year nearly 100 Guides, Brownies & Rainbows will be taking part in the show where they will all be celebrating events that are happening in 2012. These include the Queens Diamond Jubilee, 50 years since the Beatles were formed, Charles Dickens 200th Birthday and the Olympics.

During the second half of the show our New May Queen will be crowned. This year we are pleased to announce that Chloe Smith will be crowned as Queen Agapanthus. Chloe has chosen Jessica Boyce, Lauren Siddy, Amber Buckley, Faye Revill, Molly Emmett and Rose-Ella Childs to be her attendants.

Tickets for the show are now available from any of the Leaders or by phoning Claire on 2461289

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#### **Ecclesfield Conservation Group**

#### **Interpretation/Heritage Board**

Following on from the announcement in the March issue about the unveiling of our heritage board, we thought you might like to know that the event proved to be a great success.

After many months of work by the Conservation Group, Mel & Joan Jones and representatives of EPIP, the board was finally erected and unveiled on Ladycroft Meadow on 24th March 2012. As a group we were surprised and delighted to see so many people there - and so was the driver of the 76 bus who thought we were all waiting to get on!

The chairman of the Conservation Group made a short speech thanking everyone involved, but after all his detailed work, it was appropriate to delegate the actual unveiling to Mel Jones. Representatives of EPIP arrived with a photographer to record the event. Managers from John Fairest's provided a huge buffet in church and stayed to enjoy the occasion too. Thank you, St Mary's, for allowing us to use the church.

Thank you to all who came. If you didn't make it, please take time to have a look at the board when passing. You can also collect an accompanying leaflet from the church, Gatty Hall, the library or from several local businesses that have kindly agreed to display them.



We hope this will be only the first board of its kind in Ecclesfield and that in due course we can erect others around the village. If you have any thoughts about content of such boards or ideas on future projects the Conservation Group might undertake you are welcome to our meetings. Visit our web site www.conservation.ecclesfieldgroups.com and contact us there.

Pete Barker – Ecclesfield Conservation Group



# St MATTHIAS May 14th

There is no mention of a Matthias among the lists of followers of Jesus in the Gospels but we assume that he was part of the larger group, outside the 12 disciples, during Jesus' ministry.

According to chapter one of Acts, after Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the disciples sought to replace him. They nominated two men; Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias to replace Judas out of a group of about 120. The disciples prayed, and then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts, chapter 1, verses 23-26.

And that is all we really know about Matthias. That he was chosen.

But we do know that he was one of the witnesses of Jesus's ministry. He was one of the great cloud of witnesses that includes us today, to the power of God in changing lives.

#### CHANGE OVER

Can you rearrange these letters to make the names of people mentioned in the Bible? Answers at the bottom of the page.

- 1. AC BOJ
- 2. NANA
- 3. MAT HAR
- 4. NI SOME US
- 5. HAT BATI
- 6. KOZAD
- 7. SHAM IT AT
- 8. LIRE BAG



What do you call a bee born in May? A maybe.

What is green and fluffy? A sea-sick poodle.

What do you call a person who can't weave?
Unbeweavable.

Answers: 1.Jacob 2.Anna 3.Martha 4.Onesimus 5.Tabitha 6.Zadok 7.Matthias 8.Gabriel

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#### A St. Mary's in another city.

#### Santa María la Real de La Almudena - The Catholic Cathedral in Madrid.

When the capital of Spain was transferred from Toledo to Madrid in 1561, the seat of the Church in Spain remained in Toledo; so the new capital – unusually for a Catholic country – had no cathedral. Plans were discussed as early as the 16th century to build a cathedral in Madrid dedicated to the Virgin of Almudena<sup>[1]</sup>, however construction did not begin until 1879.

The cathedral seems to have been built on the site of a medieval mosque that was destroyed in 1083 when Alfonso VI reconquered Madrid.

Francisco de Cubas, the Marquis of Cubas, designed and directed the construction in a Gothic revival style. Construction ceased completely during the Spanish Civil War, and the project was abandoned until 1950, when Fernando Chueca Goitia adapted the plans of de Cubas to a baroque exterior to match the grey and white façade of the Palacio Real, which stands directly opposite. The cathedral was not completed until 1993, when it was consecrated by Pope John Paul II. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2004 the marriage of Felipe, Prince of Asturias to Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano (known thereafter as Letizia, Princess of Asturias) took place at the cathedral.

The Neo-Gothic interior is uniquely modern, with chapels and statues of contemporary artists, in heterogeneous styles, from historical revivals to "pop-art" decor. The Neo-Romanesque crypt houses a 16th century image of the Virgen de la Almudena.

On the 28th of April 2004, Cardinal Antonio María Rouco Varela, Archbishop of Madrid blessed the new paintings in the apse, painted by Kiko Arguello, founder of the Neocatechumenal Way. The cathedral is the seat of the Patriarch of the Indies and the Ocean Sea, an honorific patriarchate created in the sixteenth century, and subsequently an honorific title for the Spanish court's chaplain.

The photo on the back cover of the magazine shows the Apse of the Crucifixion, main altar and part of the highly decorated apse ceiling.

If you ever get a chance to visit this magnificent cathedral do so, despite the bustle and hum of people all around you it has a quiet peacefulness about it that I can't quite explain.

**PFL** 

Note 1. Virgin of Almudena - a medieval icon of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ and patroness of the city of Madrid - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgin\_of\_Almudena

#### Prayers and Poems Page

#### Hosanna!

Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song we sing,

For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.

O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,

And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

By Jeanette Threlfall (1821 - 1880)

#### Wellspring of peace

O love that cast out fear,
O love that casts out sin,
Tarry no more without,
But come and dwell within!
Great love of God, come in!
Wellspring of heavenly peace;
Thou Living Water, come!
Spring up, and never cease!

By Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889)

#### Sounds and Signs

(Acts 2:1-4)

Sounds and signs from heaven,
How to describe them?

A roaring mighty windstorm Tongues of fire Words are too weak,
Too one-dimensional.

We need the Lord's own linguist
To describe them
Through transformed lives.

Only when he fills us
Can we understand,
Only when he fills us
Can we pour out the joy,
The love and the laughter,
The power and the praise.
Only when he fills us
Can we speak and show.

Come Holy Spirit, Transform us into Sounds and signs from heaven.

By Daphne Kitching

#### Looking up

Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from worldly cares and foolish desires, from vain hopes and causeless fears, and so dispose our hearts that death itself may not be dreadful to us. May our hearts be so firmly established in grace that nothing may affright us or shake our constancy.

Amen.

#### Guard my heart

Deliver me, O God, from all idolatrous love of any creature. Preserve me from all such blind affection. Be thou a guard to all my desires. And be Thou my security, that I may never open my heart to anything but out of love to Thee.

#### Amen

Both by John Wesley (1703 – 1791)

#### Crossword Puzzle

#### **Clues Across**

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, "— here and keep watch" (Mark 14:34) (4)

#### **Clues Down**

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are —?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Abab. 19, Blot

Ahab. 19, Blot.

#### **Answers**

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

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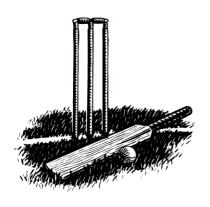
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Elizabeth Gelsthorpe - NDSF FSF

135 High Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S35 9UA

#### Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The 10 days of summer weather in March were followed by several inches of snow and over 3 weeks of cool damp weather. Whitley ended up with both their senior matches and also the junior matches on the first weekend of the season cancelled due to waterlogged pitches.

Yet again, the weather has ruled the start of the season. But the good news is that we are ready, the teams are all fit and enthusiastic and we have welcomed back Jaco Castle who has returned from South Africa.

We hope to see you at Cinder Hill Lane supporting your local club – a total of 7 teams including the four junior teams. All local people are very welcome to use all the facilities in the pavilion on match days. Anyone wishing to play cricket who is not already a club member is invited to contact the Team Manager, Steve Fletcher. We are still looking for a first team scorer so please contact either Steve Fletcher or me if you think you may be interested.

#### **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

5th May	1st XI	V	Whiston
6th May	1st XI	V	Aston Hall
12th May	2nd XI	v	Wickersley
13th May	1st XI		National knock-out 2nd Match
19th May	1st XI	v	Houghton
20th May	2nd XI		President's Trophy second match
26th May	2nd XI	v	Doncaster
2nd June	2nd XI	V	Sheffield United

Call in for a fixture card for all matches including juniors

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 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
2<sup>nd</sup> Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 2402398

#### **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. to17 yrs. - Fridays Manager - Steve Fletcher Secretary – Joe Webster Tel: 0114 2452518 www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

If you would like your local group advertised please contact:

Mrs P Blackburn 20114 2468453

# **<u>Useful Contacts</u>**

<u>Vicarage</u>	Revd. Daniel Hartley	2570002			
Churchwardens:	Mr Alwyne Hill Mr Tommy Proctor Mrs Ann Hackett Mrs Audrey Sidebottom	2469154 2460373 2467159 2460929			
Readers:	Mrs Pat Clarke Mrs Norma Priest Mrs Stephanie Dale	2577191 2461729 2467348			
Pastoral Workers:	Mrs Stephanie Hartshorne Mrs Pat Wood	2845381 2465086			
Church Office: Tuesday - Wednesday Thursday 9.00 am to1		2450106			
Church Choir Practic Friday 7:30 pm - Cont		2468430			
Music Group Practice in Church Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker 2460746					
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall 1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm Contact: Maureen Lambert 2469690					
Ecclesfield ladies Gr Thursday 7.30 pm - C		2463091 2469914			
Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst 2862766					
Gatty Hall Bookings, Contact: Mrs Margaret Roberts 2463993					
Baptisms: Contact –	Revd. Daniel Hartley	2570002			
Weddings: Contact -	Revd. Daniel Hartley	2570002			
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