

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for May 2013

Price 60p

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First Words...

- **10 Days Of Prayer** - Between Ascension Day and Pentecost we will again be observing 10 days of prayer for the life of this Parish and the Diocese of Sheffield. Please take time to read the information in this Magazine about what we are doing in Ecclesfield.
- **Worshipping Together** – It's been fantastic for us to worship together as one family on a Sunday morning. We are rightly told that the Church is not just about Sunday mornings, but good Sunday worship should stand at the heart of all that we do. Please make it a priority to start your week (Sunday is, after all, the first day of the week) in worship and join with us for our 10 o'clock Service.
- **We Are Growing** – It's official, since Christmas we have noticed an increase in numbers at our 10 o'clock Sunday Service, at our 6.30 p.m. Evening Service and at our monthly Prayer and Praise Evenings (4th Sunday of the month, 6.30 p.m.) Our Sunday Club for children has almost outgrown the room we use – more good news.

Why are we growing? Prayer, hard work, good worship – the collective effort of the whole congregation! So let's push forward, let's keep encouraging others to join with us and let's keep our levels of commitment up.

Daniel Hartley



The Collect for Pentecost

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Front Cover – The Lych Gate (no notices)
Back Cover – Reubens 'The Adoration of the Magi' & Kings College Chapel Entrance

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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

The Vicars' Letter - The Confident Church

Is our Church, both locally and nationally, a confident Church? Hopefully we find that the answer to this question is yes. But a far more important question for us to ask is whether we are confident in the right thing! So often the Church can busy itself with the things that, whilst not wrong in themselves, can sometimes leave little energy or enthusiasm for our “core business”. As the Church’s role in society becomes less prominent, it is tempting to seek to reclaim this role by undertaking tasks that will win society’s approval. We find ourselves using language of service: serving the nation, serving society, serving the communities in which we live. There is nothing wrong with this and indeed much to commend it. There are many acts of service in the New Testament, acts undertaken by Jesus himself and by the early Church.

The problem occurs when these acts of service are divorced from the context of proclamation and teaching. In the New Testament we are told of these acts of service so that we are better able to understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. In other words the acts of service do not stand alone and can only be fully understood as they point to God. Service and proclamation belong together. The confidence of the early Church, and the Church in all times of strength, lies in the message of salvation; the “core business” of the Church is to proclaim this message and live this message out in lives filled with worship and hope.

In our age this message of salvation is hard to proclaim and often hard to hear. It is tempting for the Church to find confidence in acts of service, to take comfort in the fact that we are still needed and relevant in at least one way. We are invited to sit on committees, commissions and focus groups and we can sleep easily in the knowledge that the Church is still “relevant”. But how much more relevant it would be for us find confidence in the message of salvation. How much more relevant it would be if we shared this message with our neighbours and with our communities. How much more relevant it would be if we persuaded those around us that worshipping God is the most important thing that we can do.

A confident Church is always a Church that serves. But it is a Church that first and foremost serves God. We must be constantly vigilant in maintaining this priority. If we seek to serve humanity before we serve God then we will secure a place and a “relevance” for one more generation, but after this we will no longer be serving humanity or God because we will no longer be here. The “core business” of the Church is proclaim afresh in each generation the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to call new disciples to follow him. That sounds like a challenge. Are we able to rise to this challenge? I’m confident that we are.

Daniel Hartley

Bishop's Letter for May

“Journeying Together”

Many of us are familiar with the concept of pilgrimage or making a journey. It's a spiritual tradition found in the history of nearly every major religion. All pilgrimages have at least two elements in common - the journey and the desire to experience a source of sacred awe, though the reasons why people make these journeys is diverse.



Jean and Wallace Clift, in their book *the Archetypes of Pilgrimage* identify the following motivations amongst others – to go and see the place where something has happened, to reclaim lost or abandoned or forgotten parts of oneself, to admire something beautiful, to go outside the normal routine of life so something new can happen, to answer an inner call to go, to give thanks, to express love of God, to draw near to the sacred. Christians see life itself as a journey, coming from and returning to God, a journey from earth to heaven.

In 2014 the diocese will be marking its Centenary. The theme will be Journeying. The celebrations will start with the re-opening of our Cathedral at Pentecost and end with a service on the Feast of Christ the King when we will be joined by the Archbishop of York. In between, we are asking people to join together with Bishop Steven and myself on a journey that will include major historical and spiritual sites around the diocese. There will be no long walks; we are simply asking people to join us at sites local to them. At each pilgrimage site Bishop Steven will offer teaching, and there will be a service of thanksgiving and events for all including times of fellowship and prayer. More details will be available shortly.

We hope that journeying together will be a time of real celebration and party as we give thanks for the past, the present and look in expectation to the future. We hope that the physical and spiritual journey will be an opportunity to experience the things outlined by Jean and Wallace Clift, but above all a time to draw closer to God, to find spiritual insight, wisdom, healing and strength for God's mission.

Please remember the planning group in your prayer and if you have any ideas about how we might develop the diocesan celebrations please do get in touch.

+ *Peter*



St BONA of PISA

May 29th



Bona was born in Pisa, Italy in 1156. When she was 14 she made her first journey, going to see her father who was fighting in the

crusades near Jerusalem. On the way back she was captured by pirates in the Mediterranean. Rescued, she set out again, this time taking with her a large number of pilgrims to make the 1,000 mile journey to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain.

Bona became an official guide on this famous pilgrimage route and made the journey 9 times, "full of energy, helpful, and unselfish, ready to reassure with her smile those who were sick."

In recent times St Bona has come to be associated as the patron saint of travellers along with St Christopher; and in particular of couriers, guides and air-hostesses.



TRAVELLING ON...

There are lots of journeys recorded in the Bible. Can you find the answers to these travel questions? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts, chapt. 27)?
2. Where was there no room for Mary and Joseph when they journeyed from Nazareth?
3. Which country did Joseph's brothers travel to find food? (Genesis, chapt.42)
4. Why does the Bible always say that people were 'going up' to Jerusalem?
5. When Moses led the people out of Egypt, what did he take with him? (Exodus, chapt.13)
6. Which of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse rides a red horse? (Revelation)

What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

Hop in!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

Lost.

Answers: 1.Malta 2.in the inns of Bethlehem 3.Egypt 4.because Jerusalem is built on a hill, so whatever direction you come from, you will always be going up to it. 5.Joseph's bones 6. War.



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Sheffield Diocese Ten Days of Prayer

Ascension to Pentecost

Bishop Steven writes:

This is the time of year when we pause and centre our lives again on God's grace.

It's a time when we draw aside and spend time in intercession for our communities.

It's a time when we seek God's provision for the ministry of the church and of the diocese.

It's a time to pray for the making of new disciples and for people to come to faith.

It's a time to listen to God more deeply for the year ahead and to seek a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

10 Days of Prayer programme at St Mary's Thursday 9th May to Sunday 19th May

Thursday 9th May - Ascension Day Eucharist 7.30pm

Friday 10th May - Daily Prayer 12.30 – 1pm

Saturday 11th May - Prayer Breakfast 8.30 – 10.30am

Sunday 12th May - Normal Sunday services

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th Wednesday 15th - Daily Prayer 12.30 – 1pm

Thursday 16th May - Daily Prayer 12.30 -1pm
Service of Prayer 7.30pm

Friday 17th May - Daily Prayer 12.30-1pm

Saturday 18th May - Prayer Walk 10am

Sunday 19th May - Pentecost Service 10am

Bible Translation

Giving others the chance to learn about God and Jesus

Stephen and Marit Impey ('Tricia & Richard's son and his wife) live in Hamburg, Germany and have four children. The couple met whilst working as volunteers in a Christian hostel in Israel - it was a long distance courtship with Stephen studying for his degree here in England and Marit nursing in Germany.

In 2011 they felt very strongly that one day they would work in full time Christian Mission work. The conviction became so strong that they decided it was time to act. They had long been attracted to the work of Wycliffe as a most effective and sustainable approach to taking God's word to his people. In 2012 they began training in linguistics, literacy and scripture use.

They hope that in the future they will work in the areas of mother-tongue literacy programmes – this does involve teaching people to read, write and do basic arithmetic. The teaching is obviously done best by someone who speaks the language of the people learning – so this means setting up courses. The main intention of the literacy is to enable people to read the Bible in their language.

It is intended that they will work supporting the use of newly translated scriptures in churches, groups and with individuals – this would be in developing Bible studies adapted to the context addressing specific needs in a particular community.

Learning new languages will be required and a start will be made by them learning a national language to enable travel in the country chosen for them to work in – although there will no doubt be many different languages in any given country.

They have now completed training for their initial assignment and are currently looking to which country they will work – hoping to be able to begin this in the near future.

Stephen and Marit need to be supported by sponsorship for their work.

If you feel you could give a donation to their work please speak to Stephanie Hartshorne.

However, if you are unable to do this please support them in prayer for:

- God's protection and guidance as well as good health for them all, particularly the children.
- For the children and their schooling over the coming months.
- Preparation and a clear vision for the country, region and people group in which we are to work.
- God's blessing as they talk with groups and individuals.

S. Hartshorne

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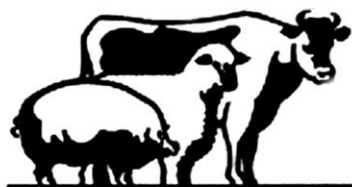
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Will You Remember Them - May

Christian killed at funeral of four Christians shot dead in Egypt.

A Christian man was killed on Sunday 7th April as the funeral of four other Christians shot dead in violence just days before came under assault in Egypt.

Thousands of mourners gathered at St Mark's Cathedral in Cairo. The Christian community there had come under attack by Muslims after the wall of an Islamic building was defaced with graffiti of a swastika. The act was falsely attributed to Christians, and rumours circulated that they had also drawn crosses on the walls. Muslims were incited to launch an assault.

A church, Christian kindergarten and other Christian owned property were torched. A Muslim was also killed in the violence. A church leader who witnessed the violence and deaths of the four Christian men on April 4th and 5th at St George's church in the north of Cairo said, "It was as if war had broken out"

The police and security forces were criticised for their slow and ineffective response. Following the funeral on Sunday, the procession was attacked by a mob throwing stones and petrol bombs. A 30year old man was killed and at least 84 people wounded.

A fire broke out in one of the buildings inside the cathedral headquarters after explosives were thrown at it; adjacent houses were also set alight.

Egypt's minority Christian community has come under increased attack since the revolution; they have accused the government of failing to protect them.

Please Pray

- That those who have lost loved ones may be comforted.
- That the injured may be healed.
- That Christians and those of other faiths may seek ways of peace.
- That the government in Egypt may deal fairly with the Christian minority in the country.

JD

The 92nd Sheffield Brownies.

Here at 92nd Sheffield Brownies we have been enjoying a full programme of crafts, games and activities.

We have celebrated several special days in the calendar this term, sewing and decorating felt hearts for St Valentine's day, hand painting vases for Mother's day and making some lovely sequin Easter cards.

In addition, we have been working together on our Science Investigator badge which, amongst other things, involved making rocket balloons and ice-cream. We have had five new Brownies join us and make their Brownie Promise since January. Some of the new girls completed their hostess badge by welcoming their parents to their special evening and serving tea and cakes.

We are currently taking part in Girlguiding Sheffield's Smartie Challenge. After eating a tube of Smarties each we are trying to fill each one with 20p's to help raise money towards the refurbishment of one of the holiday homes at our Outdoor Activity Centre. In the summer we will be joining with other brownies in our District camp and Brownie holiday there and enjoying these new facilities.

During the coming weeks we will be rehearsing for our annual May Queen and learning lots of words, song dances and actions, keeping us very busy.

AK

Ecclesfield Girl Guides May Queen

Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May 2013

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here.

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

Humour

Dictionary of Project Terms

Are you working on any projects this Spring? Here are some phrases that may come in handy!

- **Project slightly behind original schedule due to unforeseen difficulties** - We got so sick of working on this that we decided to do something else.
- **Major Technological Breakthrough** - Back to the drawing board.
- **Developed after years of intensive research** - It was discovered by accident.
- **Customer satisfaction is believed assured** - We are so far behind schedule that the customer will be happy to get anything at all from us.
- **The design will be finalized in the next reporting period** - We haven't started this job yet, but we've got to say something.
- **Test results were extremely gratifying** - It works, and brother are we surprised.
- **Extensive effort is being applied on a fresh approach to the problem** - We just hired three new guys; we'll let them kick it around for a while.
- **Preliminary operational tests are inconclusive** - The darn thing blew up when we threw the switch.
- **The entire concept will have to be abandoned** - The only guy who understood the thing quit.
- **Modifications are under way to correct certain minor difficulties** - We threw the whole thing out and are starting from scratch.

How to Stay Safe This Spring

- **Avoid riding in automobiles** - they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- **Do not stay home** - 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
- **Avoid walking on streets or pavements** - 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
- **Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water** - 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- **Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals.** So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But, you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

And, Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, attend church, and read your Bible - **IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Diary for the Month of May 2013

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday 1 st | 10.30 am | Service at Eva Ratcliffe House |
| | 1.00 pm | MU in the Gatty Hall – Sheila Barnes/My Parachute Jump |
| Thursday 2 nd | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | 7.30 pm | Ladies' Group – The Revd. T. Page/ Echoes of Laughter |
| Sunday 5th | | The Sixth Sunday of Easter |
| | 10.00 am | Parish Communion |
| | 12 noon | Baptism Service |
| | 6.30 pm | Evening Service |
| Monday 6 th | 7.30 pm | PCC meets in Church |
| Wednesday 8 th | 10.30 am | Service at Eva Ratcliffe House |
| Thursday 9 th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | 10.30 am | Prayer Meeting in Church |
| | 2.30 pm | Service at Hartwell House |
| | 7.30 pm | Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening |
| Sunday 12th | | The Seventh Sunday of Easter |
| | 8.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Parish Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 15 th | 10.30 am | Service at Eva Ratcliffe House |
| Thursday 16 th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| Saturday 18 th | 10.00 am | Ecclesfield in Bloom Coffee Morning |
| Sunday 19th | | Day of Pentecost |
| | 10.00 am | Pentecost Praise |
| | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 22 nd | 10.30 am | Service at Eva Ratcliffe House |
| Thursday 23 rd | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | 7.30 pm | Ladies' Group – S. Bingham / Back to Backs to Penthouses |
| Sunday 26th | | Trinity Sunday |
| | 8.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Parish Communion |
| | 6.30 pm | Evening Service |
| Monday 27 th | 7.30 pm | Ignatian Prayer in Church |

Tuesday 28th
Wednesday 29th
Thursday 30th

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting in Church
10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
9.30 am Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 7th April | Ellis Dylan Matthew Hurst |
| 7th April | Christian Kiwomya |
| 7th April | Elliott George Reeve |

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

Weddings

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 6th April | Paul Cantrell and Olivia Cantrell |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|

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

Funerals

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----|
| 28th March | Jean Lee | 65 |
| 17th April | Bert Booth | 87 |
| 24th April | Agnes Hobson | 92 |
| 30th April | Florence Hughes | 100 |

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 5 th May | N. Priest & J. Rodber |
| 12 th May | Vacant |
| 19 th May | P. Hawley & J. Hawksworth (Pentecost) |
| 26 th May | A. Briddock & I. Proctor |



The Gardening Year May 2013

Flowers:- Bedding plants, such as geraniums, calceolarias, lobelia etc., should be hardened off by allowing as much light and air as possible in readiness for planting out at the end of the month. Gladioli may still be planted where they are to bloom. Dahlias may be planted out at the end of the month if the weather is favourable. If you like dahlias and you want masses of colour, the best I have ever grown is a variety called 'Bishops children' the seed is obtained from Thompson and Morgan. If you keep cutting the flowers stems for the home, they will keep producing until the first frosts, after the first frost dig the tubers up clean them and put in peat or compost in a frost free place for the winter. Next spring you can take cuttings from them which will cost you nothing. Prepare borders for bedding plants and bed out as weather and aspect permits.

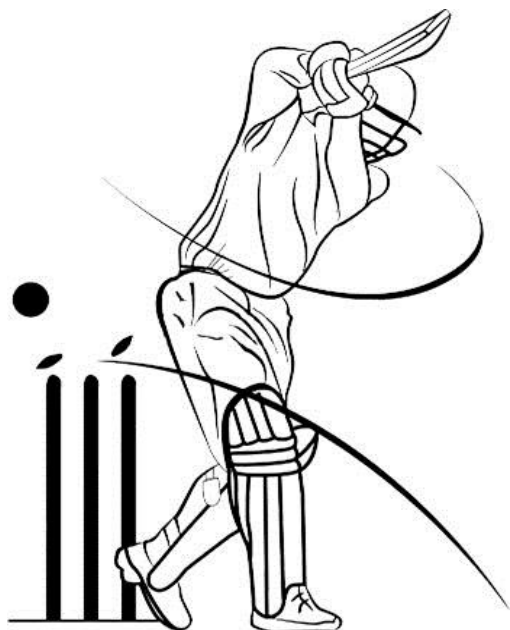
The Rock Garden – as each flower fades on the rock garden it should be cut away, unless seed is wanted, and any unsightly leaves removed. Some rock plants bear fruits which are quite as pretty as the flowers: for instance, dryas octopetala. The dead flowers in such cases must be left to develop. Water loving plants such as mimulus and primulas may need water this month if the weather is dry. Seed from rock plants should be saved as many plants can be raised this way sow immediately the seed is ripe. Sow in pans of gritty soil covering either not at all or with the finest possible cover of sand. Amongst the rock plants that can be raised easily from seed sown now are – Aubretia, silene compactus, primulas, campanulas, (various) yellow alyssum, cheiranthus, aramis, cebastium.

Under Glass – harden off all plants by slow and gradual processes. Give air daily to frames and greenhouses, if a cold wind comes give air on the side of the house away from the wind. Close the ventilators sufficiently at night to keep out late frosts. Shade seedlings from scorching sunshine, give more water if the weather is fine and less if it is cool and sunless. Lift out boxes of seedlings daily on to the paths putting them back in the frames at night until the weather is settled and the seedlings are hardy.

Vegetables – prepare the cold frames for cucumbers, and sow seeds in the pots in the frame of greenhouse, prepare outside beds for courgettes marrow and ridge cucumbers, plant summer cabbages. Harden off outside tomato plants and plant out towards the end of the month. Outdoors, sow winter cabbages, carrots, French and runner beans, cauliflowers, savoys, spinach, swedes, sweetcorn, turnips, lettuce and radishes. Don't forget to plant your runner beans with the two eyes facing down, as this is where the roots emerge from.

Colin Williams

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



It is good to report at the end of April that the club has made an excellent start to the season. The two senior teams have each won both of their matches with maximum points and all the other teams have also been in winning form. Let us hope that the weather remains favourable and that we can have a great summer of cricket.

Do come and support your local club at Cinder Hill Lane. You are all very welcome to use 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

Website: www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Senior matches at Cinder Hill Lane

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 4 th May | 2 nd XI | v | Wickersley |
| 6 th May | Colts | v | Treeton |
| 11 th May | 1 st XI | v | Upper Haugh |
| 18 th May | 2 nd XI | v | Doncaster |
| 25 th May | 1 st XI | v | Wath |
| 27 th May | Colts | v | Wath |
| 1 st June | 2 nd XI | v | Thorncliffe 1 st XI |
| 2 nd June | Colts | v | Sheffield United (cup) |

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Barbara Rann (1947-2013)

Barbara Rann was our friend and fellow-bellringer. She was a true team member, from her joining us at St. Mary's, Ecclesfield, in 1990 until her sudden death on 23rd. January 2013. She was reliable, punctual, friendly and practical. She helped whenever and however she could. You could depend on Barbara and so, of course, we did. She worked tirelessly in our recent fund-raising efforts to raise funds for augmentation to 10 bells.



Barbara was born at Ridgmont in North Bedfordshire, close to Woburn Abbey. The family moved to the next village, Husborne Crawley, where as a teenager Barbara learned to ring at the village church. The team rang at various churches in the area including St Mary's at Woburn and apparently most of the village joined in with the belfry outings to visit towers further afield. Barbara did not forget her roots and so continued to ring occasionally in Bedfordshire on trips back home.

She met Len, a Yorkshireman, when he was studying at college at Bletchley, and moved to Sheffield when they married. They had two children, Helen and Alex, and besides being a wife and mother, Barbara was a nursery nurse, working for much of her career at Angram Bank School. During her career she made many friends, so much so that on her retirement over 70 of them came along to the party to mark the occasion.

Barbara's children declare that Barbara gave them both selfless support whenever and however she could, and must have passed GCSE's and Duke of Edinburgh awards at least twice. Len is truly thankful for the 43 blissful years of their marriage.

Barbara always enjoyed ringing church bells, and would turn up for ringing at Ecclesfield whenever she could, even when that meant a 6.00am start for Breakfast TV last December or ringing for the Queen's Jubilee, or the Olympic Torch relay or the Olympic Opening to mention just a few. The bells were rung for Barbara and Len's wedding by her friends in Bedfordshire, and they rang at St Mary's Woburn to celebrate her life. We also rang at St Mary's Ecclesfield to celebrate her life, her friendship and her dedication.

MU Meeting Wednesday 3rd April 2013

This month we had a return visit from 'Bluebell Wood'. Ann Clarke came to give us an update on the further development of the Hospice.

The charity came into being through the death of a young boy who had a rare disease which developed into cancer. It entailed frequent visits to hospital and intensive treatment in a stressful environment. Richard died aged just 11 years old.

In 1998 the charity 'The Richard Foundation' was established to help families like Richards. After 2 years of fund raising on the 19th September 2008, 'Bluebell Wood' opened its doors to children with life limiting conditions. It costs £2,500.000 million every year to provide this service with no statutory Government Funding. Without the help of voluntary donations from the Community, Companies, University Students, H.S.B.C. Bank, and the 7 charity shops, 'Bluebell Wood' could not provide this care. At the present time it is supporting 130 families.

The hospice building is shaped like a horseshoe, all on one level with easy access to all the rooms and facilities. Over the past five years it has been extended to accommodate rooms for therapy to stimulate the disabled, a sensory room for touch and sound, and a soft play area. A new kitchen and dining area has been installed where all the families dine together.

Some children stay at the Hospice well into their teens. Their needs are also catered for with computers, snooker and pin ball. There is also a library and Jacuzzi.

Alan Titchmarsh and a team of volunteers have created a 'Dry River Bed' garden with wheelchair access to all areas which has enabled everyone to enjoy the outdoors. There is also a quiet room with stain glass windows. Although there are no religious symbols it has a quiet peaceful environment when needed. Rooms are available for parents to stay and a Saturday club for brothers and sisters is supported by the police with their horses and helicopters on show.

A farewell suite for when a child's life comes to an end is there for the family. 'Bluebell Wood' is also involved when a child dies at home. Support is given to the family by the Hospice for three years after the loss of their child. 'Bluebell Wood' is a place filled with laughter and love. It gives families the chance to relax, take a break and have fun while giving support to the whole family.

GL

Humour - The puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming.

As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realized it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



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Ecclesfield in Bloom Coffee Morning & Plant Sale Saturday 18th May



In St. Mary's Church
Between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm
Please come along and support this event

Prayers and Poems Page

Spirit of God

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.

By George Croly

Grow old along with me

Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be;
the last of life, for which the first was made.
Our times are in his hands who saith,
‘A whole I planned, youth shows but half.
Trust God; see all, nor be afraid.’

By Robert Browning

May we be Light

‘Light of the World’ are we,
May we shine brilliantly
In the World’s night.
When all around is gloom
When Satan speaks of doom
In shadow of the tomb
May we be light!
Our good works, openly
Conducted joyfully
In the World’s sight;
As we meet people’s needs
May all our Christian deeds
Plant many Christian seeds –
May we be light!
Led by the Spirit, pure
We’ll, with His guidance sure
Touch the World’s plight;
As we walk Jesus’ ways
May our lives all our days
Bring to our Jesus, praise
May we be light!

By Nigel Beeton

Nigel Beeton observes: “Sometimes we wonder why people don’t come to church. We put on all these wonderful services, which we all enjoy, but no-one comes in to join us!

Jesus knew why – He said “You are the light of the world.... people don’t light a lamp and put it under a bowl” (Matt 5:14,15) So why do we hide our lights INSIDE our churches?” If you want to sing it, the tune (as you may have guessed) is ‘Moscow’ (Thou, whose almighty word).

The story behind

‘When peace like a river....

“Horatio and Anna Spafford knew heartache. They had five children, but in 1871 their only son died, aged four years. More tragedy followed with financial ruin during the great Chicago fire. The family decided to sail to Europe. Anna went ahead with the girls, Horatio staying behind on business to follow them later.

While crossing the Atlantic the ship sank and all four daughters were drowned. Anna sent a telegraph “Saved alone...” Horatio sailed from Chicago to meet his grieving wife, and nearing the spot where his daughters died he wrote this inspiring hymn – “It is well with my soul”. It runs:

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll.

***Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.***

Crossword Puzzle

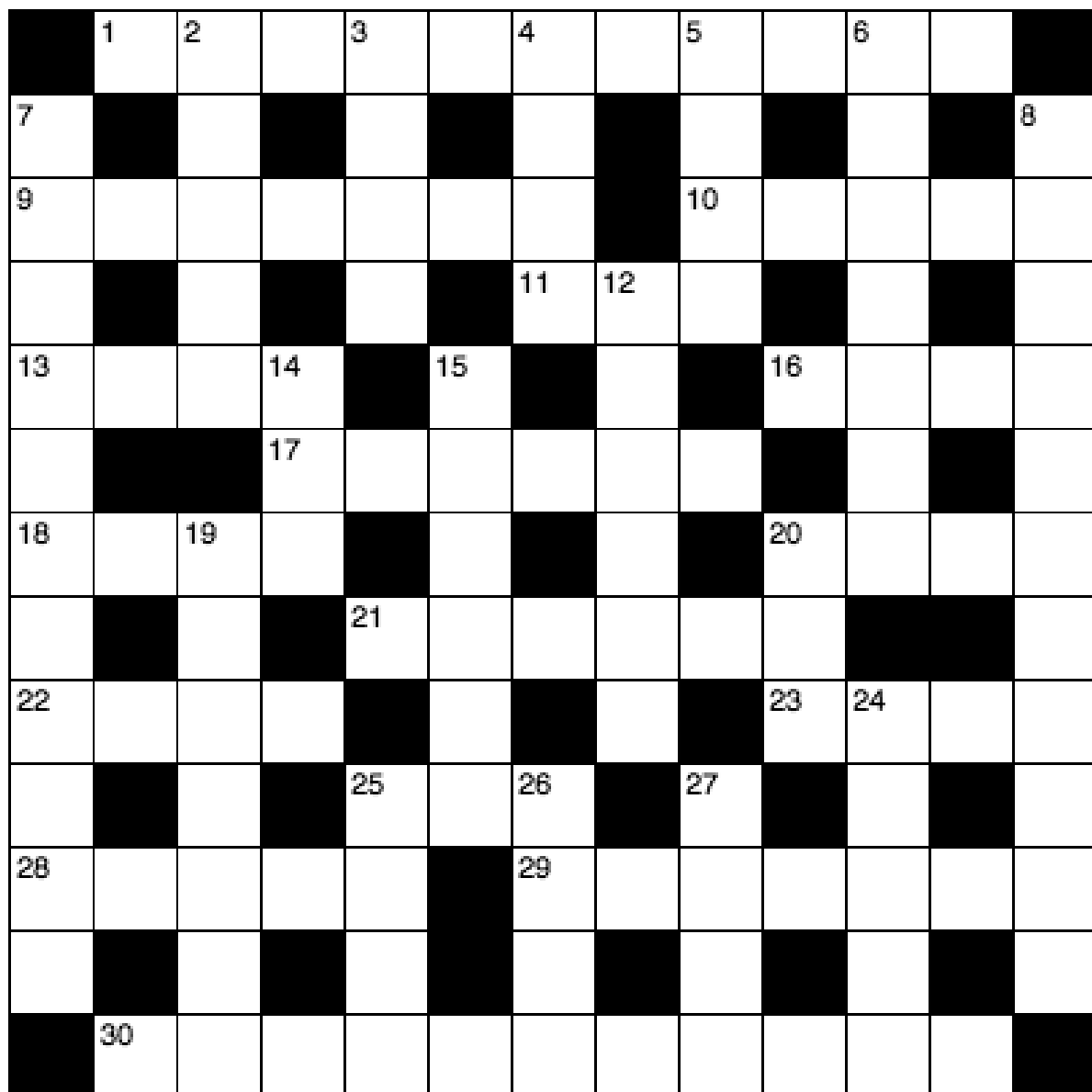
Clues Across

- 1** Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)
16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought——and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)
18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
25 Has (anag.) (3)
28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Clues Down

- 2** Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
5 Slip (anag.) (4)
6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)

- 8** ‘Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people’ (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12** Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
- 14** Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
- 15** ‘He...became obedient to death, even death on——!’ (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19** Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
- 20** ‘She began to—his feet with her tears’(Luke7:38)(3)
- 24** One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva(5)
- 25** ‘Give to everyone who—you’(Luke6:30)(4)
- 26** ‘I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?’ (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27** One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 14.

Saint of the Month - May 14th - St Matthias

If you're saying to yourself, 'Who?' you'll be in good company. May 14th is the feast day of St Matthias the Apostle, and in describing him thus we have said just about all there is to know about him. He gets just one mention in the Bible.

In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had committed suicide, and a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia. His emblem is usually an axe or halberd, regarded as the instrument of his martyrdom. His supposed relics were translated from Jerusalem to Rome by the empress Helen.

Eusebius, in the fourth century, says in his history of the apostolic era that Matthias was one of the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1), and that seems reasonable. When it was necessary to fill the vacancy among the apostles it would be natural to turn to someone who had followed Jesus from earlier years, as well as being a witness of the resurrection. Two names were suggested and prayed over. Then the apostles cast lots, following the Old Testament practice of the high priest's Urim and Thummim, one assumes. When they did, 'the lot fell on Matthias'.

Casting lots to fill vacancies on committees or councils, or even, I suppose, to appoint bishops, would seem to us a bizarre and risky practice, and it may be, as the great Victorian preacher Campbell Morgan suggested, that the eleven acted in haste and pre-empted God's choice of Saul (later known as Paul), who at that time was busy persecuting the Church, arresting Christians and having them thrown into prison. He hadn't yet travelled the Damascus Road.

Be that as it may, Matthias was elected, and for us he can stand for all those excellent, consistent, reliable and faithful servants of Christ who never make a headline, not even in the parish magazine. He was chosen because he could be a 'witness', and so are we.

Doubtless he fulfilled that responsibility admirably, without, as we say, 'setting the Thames on fire'. Let's salute him on his day - the 'Unknown Apostle'.

Have you ever happened to be in the right place at the right time, with certain qualifications, and suddenly realise that God is singling you out for a special task? If so, then Matthias may be a good patron saint for you!

May 9th Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Editor: If you want to add more detail to Christ's appearances, the stories can be found in Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.



Coffee Shop at St Mary's Church



*Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 p.m.
Luscious Cakes, Tea / Coffee
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Greaves Road Lunch Club

*Meets every Monday during school term time at the
Community Rooms, Unity Gardens, off Greaves Road,
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Cost £3, includes 2 course hot meal and drink.
Open to anyone aged 60 or above.*

Contact Dawn Johnson 2463986 or Alwyne Hill 2469154

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

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 Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park,
off Mill Lane - Church Street
Winter opening times
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Saturdays 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
Tel: 0795 706 6404
email: rose@rosetanner.plus.com

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 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)
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Tel: 0114 258 6935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 220 9212

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Mrs P Blackburn  0114 246 8453



Useful Contacts

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‘The peace of God’

At the end of November 2009 I attended an evening service at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge, especially to listen to the wonderful chapel choir. After the service we lingered behind to ‘take in’ this fantastic building and look around.

I found opportunity to walk alone to the high altar so that I could look closer at the painting by Reubens ‘The Adoration of the Magi’ which hangs above the altar. I don’t know if I should have been allowed there, I was completely alone. There was no one else around.

As I stood in front of the altar rail and gazed at this masterpiece I was overcome with a sense of quietness, my heart was pounding and I couldn’t get my breath. I have never felt such an intense feeling of peace before.

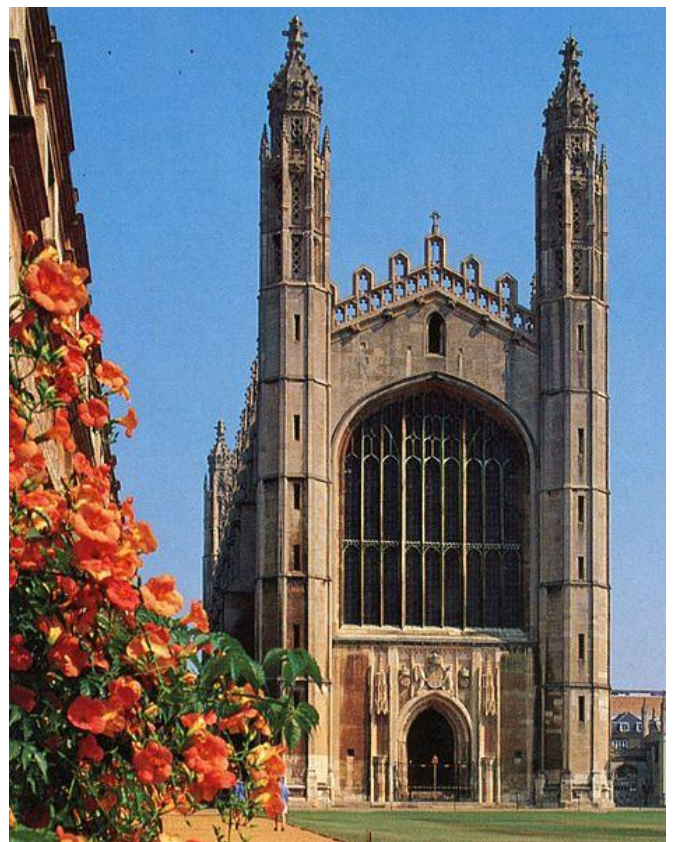
‘The peace of God which passes all understanding.’

An experience I will never forget.

Anon



Reubens ‘The Adoration of the Magi’



Kings College Chapel Entrance

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King's_College_Chapel,_Cambridge