

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for September 2015

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Price 60p

First Words....

- **Queen Elizabeth II & Ecclesfield Bells** - On Wednesday 9th September 2015 Queen Elizabeth II will become our longest reigning monarch and to celebrate this wonderful event Ecclesfield Bells will be ringing out for an hour, starting at 7.30 pm.
- **Crossroads Mission** - the visit of Bishops from the Northern Province to Sheffield Diocese happens between the 10th and 13th of this month. Why not come along to Ecclesfield Primary School on Saturday 12th September to meet and hear Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham (7-9pm).
- **Service of thanksgiving and celebration** – Sunday 13th September at 10.00am. A time to celebrate and give thanks, not just for the Mission, but for all the support and hard work given to this community of Ecclesfield, throughout the year, by so many community groups.
- **Living Stones** our 4 o'clock, once a month service, for children and families starts again on Sunday 20th September.
- **MacMillan Big Coffee Morning 25 September 2015** – come and join us between 10.00am and 12.30pm on this date when our usual Friday coffee morning will be for MacMillan Cancer support.
- **Harvest Festival** – we look forward to seeing many of you at our Harvest celebrations at 10.00am on Sunday 11th October when we will be supporting The Cathedral Archer Project with our gifts as well as seeking to help farmers abroad through Farm Africa. Our Harvest Supper is on Friday 9th October at 6.30pm in the Gatty Hall. All are welcome. Tickets available from Pat Wood on 2465086.
- **Emley Brass Band** will be with us again on **Saturday 17 October at 7pm** for our very own “Last night at the Proms”. Always a good evening. Tickets available from Ian Hartshorne on 2459435.
- In this time of change at St Mary's please continue to hold in your thoughts and prayers our Churchwardens, Ministry team, PCC and all members of our church fellowship.

Pat Clarke

Front Cover – The Queen in March 2015
Back Cover – Children's Society Coffee Morning

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Prayer for the Month

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



Thought for the month

Spending a few days in North Yorkshire last week I noticed how beautifully the moors were carpeted in purple flowering heather, and how hints of Autumn were already beginning to show in and around the Moors and Wold tops. Yes the Summer evenings are drawing in and another season is on its way. It made me think of the song written by Pete Seager in the late 1950's Turn, turn, turn, to everything - turn, turn, turn, there is a season - turn, turn, turn and a time for every purpose under heaven. Most of the lyrics are adapted word-for-word from Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes, set to music and recorded in the 1960's by The Byrds

According to Wikipedia seasons are periods in a year marked by specific weather conditions, temperatures and length of day. I am not so sure these days that the seasons are as clear as they were when I was a child. Certainly the weather seems quite confused as to which season it belongs to. For many seasons are defined by their love of sport, football season, cricket season, and what an exciting cricketing season this year as England won the Ashes, holiday seasons and so on. It's the same with our lives; they have different seasons as well.

We see in creation how the four seasons were created, based upon the rotation of the Earth as it orbits the Sun. The seasons change as the earth moves, but the sun in our planetary system remains constant, and everything revolves around it. . In many ways we see the signature of the same artist in our lives. Much like the earth, our lives should revolve around the Son, Jesus Christ. Our lives will change, and we will enter and exit many seasons, but the Son remains constant yesterday, today and forever. We live by seasons as human beings; both natural seasons and spiritual seasons. We go through them as individuals, in our relationships, in our churches, and so on. Seasons affect almost every aspect of our daily lives: they determine what

we wear, what we might eat, what activities we engage in day to day and even our moods for many of us. Some of life's seasons are enjoyable, anticipated, even relished, others are not. Some seasons are planned for, long awaited and dreamed of, and some seasons come abruptly and unexpectedly. They can be painful and difficult. Thinking about our spiritual lives in terms of seasons, helps us to understand that there are different stages in our spiritual lives and growth, different internal and external circumstances that play a part in the seasons that we go through. God's seasonal plan includes periods of growth and periods of rest. Recognizing the season you're in and responding appropriately to that season, is the best way to insure continued spiritual growth and a life that bears Godly fruit. There are seasons of uncertainty when you know God is working but even though you believe he is working, God may not be revealing anything specific and you cannot make sense of the things that are going on in your life.

Wouldn't it be great if all of life could be lived on the mountaintop? But the truth is that life is not lived on the mountaintop. Life is primarily lived in the wilderness and valley. So often in these wilderness and valley times, times of not being where we want to be or think we should be, God is building our character, teaching us patience, and showing us the things about us that we need to be changing, attitudes, actions and such like. It's from the mountaintop experiences that we gain the encouragement and strength to face the difficult times.

I'm thankful we have the Bible to help us understand how God works in all the seasons of life to help us find faith and grow and mature. God uses every season to teach us something, to communicate to us something about Himself, something about His faithfulness, something about His love in sending His Son, something about His strength, something about His power. Right now, every one of us is in a different season of life. For some of us, life couldn't be better, for others, life is painful and difficult.

But no matter what season of life we are in, we can be confident that God is there with us. We can't change those seasons, but we can choose how we respond to them. So say to yourself, "How is God directing me, how is God directing the church in this season of life in which we find ourselves right now?" Ask God to place in your heart what He wants you to learn during this specific season of your life. Invite God to speak into your seasons. Deuteronomy 11:2 says, "Remember what you've learned about the Lord through your experiences with Him." In other words, don't waste your experiences; God can teach you something through them. So I want to encourage you whatever season of life you're in, pain or disappointment, victory: or success or some great blessing to see the hand of God in it. You will change and seasons will change, but God is always the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is at work in every season...especially in the seasons of our lives.

Pat Clarke

Editor: Turn, turn, turn by the Byrds - https://youtu.be/W4ga_M5Zdn4

On church management consultants

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I'm sure your church's team of management consultants meant well, but their visit here was not wholly helpful. It is all very well when they are co-ordinating office staff, secretaries, clergy teams and legions of volunteers, but here, there is me, Miss Margison and a golden retriever

Our simpler pattern works perfectly well: if it happens in church, I do it; if it involves drawing up rotas, stoking the boiler, visiting the sick or clearing the car park of snow or the churchyard of leaves, Miss Margison does it. If something small and furry or flapping and feathery has strayed into the church, the golden retriever does it – by carrying it back outside.

Inevitably, there are legions of people around the parish who are always “glad to lend a hand if needed.” Having said that, they then feel satisfied, and actually do nothing – but complain about those of us who do do things.

Rotas are irrelevant, as whatever is written down never bears the slightest resemblance to reality anyway. As soon as someone finds that they are booked on a certain date to read a lesson, make coffee, or mow the churchyard, they immediately book a holiday for that week.

If we are lucky, they may find a replacement - apart from one occasion. Major Hastings was unable to read the lessons on a certain day, so he booked another, then forgot and booked a second person. Cometh the day, they both went to the lectern and neither would give way, so we had the lessons read by two people. It would not have been too bad if they read at the same pace, but they got ever more out of phase as the reading progressed, one having returned to his pew while the other was still doggedly finishing the last few verses.

I did, however, greatly appreciate your team's advice on time efficiency. From now on, on Sunday mornings, the lessons will be read while the hymns are sung, the collection taken while the anthem is given and the sermon preached while the notices are delivered. In future, we should get through Mattins in twelve and a half minutes.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Bishop's Letter – September

An extract from the Presidential Address on Work to the Sheffield Diocesan Synod



“Seek the welfare of the city...” 18th July 2015

“Is not this the carpenter? Mark 6.2

Two weeks ago a heart of steel was unveiled in the centre of Rotherham, outside the Minster. The new heart is the first deposit of a major new landmark sculpture for the South Yorkshire region: the Yorkshire Man of Steel.

The Yorkshire Man of Steel will sit, 30 metres high above the M1 motorway next to the Tinsley Viaduct and above a new visitor centre. The aim is to create a symbol of identity for South Yorkshire: to honour “the people and places that forged a lasting global legacy in coal, steel and manufacturing in this region and to signpost the new technologies that will secure the region’s future success” [1]. It’s a worthy aim and a bold statement.

But the Man of Steel will also ask a number of questions as he sits high on his podium looking over South Yorkshire.

- What is the future of work in this region and across the world?
- What role will work play in human life with the rise of technology and automation?
- How can we help the people of this region prepare for a new world of work?

Work is never far from the news headlines. On Thursday, Tata Steel announced 720 job cuts from its UK business because of high energy costs. The losses are mainly in Rotherham. The budget a few weeks ago turned around the question of work: the living wage; the reductions in welfare; the move to increase Sunday trading; the measures to support business; the questions about productivity; the aspiration to offer a living wage. Technology is asking new questions about our working lives all the time.

The Church has a vital part to play in this conversation. We believe that Almighty God took flesh and came to live among us. Jesus lived most of his life not as a religious minister or teacher but as a carpenter, honouring skilled, manual labour. The first disciples were fishermen: they worked with their hands and they ran small businesses.

We have much to give to a conversation about work. There is a rich Christian understanding of the place of work in human life found in Scripture and the Christian tradition. This understanding is rooted in the distinctive understanding of what it

means to be human. Women and men are never simply units of production. People are created in the image and likeness of God. Each person is of infinite value. We were created to be creative: to find satisfaction and fulfilment in our work. For the Christian, work is more than paid employment. It embraces the work of nurturing and caring for a family, voluntary work in the wider community, the creativity of hobbies or the arts.

Work is important but it is not the whole of life. The notion of Sabbath plays a vital role in both the Jewish and the Christian tradition. God gives to us time to rest as well as time to work. Rest is vital not only for recreation but also for reflection, for looking back at what we have done, to give satisfaction and meaning to our lives. One of the greatest gifts the Church has to offer the contemporary world is the gift of Sabbath and of a holy day, of one day in seven set aside for the worship of God, for rest and for reflection.

+ *Steven*

Editor: You can read the full text here: -

www.sheffield.anglican.org/blog/bishop-of-sheffield



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Will You Remember Them - September - Pakistan

“We Can See New Hope for Justice”

“We can see new hope for justice”, says Aasia Bibi’s husband after Pakistan Supreme Court stays her execution.

Praise God that the Supreme Court of Pakistan has agreed to hear an appeal by Aasia Bibi a Christian mother of five who has been languishing on death row since 2010 after she was unjustly convicted of blasphemy.

At the hearing on 22nd July 2015 the three-member panel of judges requested that all of the records related to the case be presented for consideration and stayed Aasia’s execution until the appeal can be heard. In a telephone conversation with Barnabas Fund (a Christian aid organisation), Ashiq Masih, Aasia’s husband told the co-ordinator for Pakistan that as he relayed the news to the couple’s children, “their smiles came back” with new hope. Returning from the hearing, Ashiq Masih said “We can see new hope for justice”.

Barnabas Fund and others have been supporting Aasia Bibi’s family for many years providing food parcels to help feed the family as her husband can no longer go out to work because they have to live in hiding. Accused of insulting the name of Muhammad in a dispute with fellow labourers in 2009, she was unjustly convicted in 2010 and given the mandatory death sentence according to Pakistan’s “blasphemy” laws. In an earlier hearing her lawyer, Saiful Malook, had asked the court to look again at the case against Aasia, arguing that the blasphemy allegation had been made by her enemies and that the evidence had been manipulated.

Please Pray

- That Aasia’s appeal will be heard soon and that God’s justice will prevail.
- That God’s all-surpassing peace will guard the hearts and minds of Aasia Bibi and her family as they continue to wait for the verdict of the Supreme Court
- That God will use this case to highlight the injustice of the “blasphemy” laws in Pakistan so that there will be changes in the legislation.

JD

Mothers Union - Benningborough Hall

On 15th July members of the Mothers' Union and guests set out to visit Benningborough Hall. It was a beautiful sunny day and off we set – arriving at the Hall at about 11.30 am. After paying our entrance fees many of us made straight for the coffee shop where we enjoyed wonderful scones and coffee.

Benningborough was inspired by John Bouchier's Grand Tour, and he created an Italian Palace nestled between York, Harrogate and Leeds. The impressive rooms are a perfect backdrop for the rich collection of portraits on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, Benningborough's long-term partner. The paintings feature people who have made, and are making British history and culture, and this year they include contemporary portraits in a display of 'Royals: then and now'.

A working walled garden, grand herbaceous borders, sweeping lawns and a play area for children to let off steam, creates a year-round garden. Picture-postcard views can be seen from the garden and the parkland offers opportunities to explore riverside walks, ancient trees and discover hidden wildlife.

After visiting the hall and having lunch we spent our time touring and sitting in the beautiful gardens. This was truly a day to remember.

Stephanie Hartshorne

Garden Party

On 5th August the Mothers' Union held their annual Garden Party in the church grounds. The weather was fine but exceptionally breezy and many people came. We had scones, cream and jam with a strawberry on top and many cakes baked by members. There was a bring and buy stall, bottle stall, name the teddy and refreshments. The afternoon made a profit of £255 which is to be donated to Big Wheels Appeal. These monies will go to assist Community Development Co-ordinators (Mother' Union) with their transport costs both in this country and abroad.

This was another good day of fun and laughter.

Stephanie Hartshorne

E.P.P.i.C Ecclesfield Priory Players Newsletter

July was a busy month for lettings: The Foundation classes at Ecclesfield Primary School put on a summer production for parents in the theatre, called 'Under The Sea', before they broke up for the summer holidays. The children had a wonderful experience of a proper theatre, and one little boy was astounded that Colin could tell he was a jellyfish! They hope to see us next year as well.

Some students, and former students, from **Ecclesfield (Comprehensive) School** took part in a drama long-weekend, which culminated in two performances for parents. Yet again it was a thought-provoking piece of drama, for which our theatre is ideal, and the youngsters enjoyed themselves tremendously.

We were host to the **Probus Club**, who came for a slide show on the transformation from the chapel to theatre. They went away very impressed. I still look in awe at the amazing amount of work that went on to make the theatre what it is. It is a facility that should be at the heart of the community.

This summer there have been two main projects (but, unfortunately, not twice as many people) this year. **The first is the lighting project**, which is nearing completion. We have been very fortunate to have John's services in overseeing this project, and to have it done at the best possible price. Any new electrical installation needs certifying, and that in itself is yet another cost.

The second project has been the priming of the new flats. Malcolm has been overseeing this on a Saturday morning, weather permitting. If you can wield a paintbrush, or you know anyone who can, then we would like to see you coming down to help. Drinks and biscuits provided. **They all need undercoating and fire-proofing next.**

'A Special Coffee Morning'

Saturday 12th September 2015 from 11.00am

With entertainment from John Snook

John Snook is a patron of the E.P.P.i.C. Known as 'Welsh John' at the folk clubs he sings with Millhouses Community Choir and 'Booit Straps' folk club, based at the Commercial Inn on Station Road, Chapeltown.

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Diary for the Month of September

Tuesday 1 st	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 2 nd	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	Mothers' Union in the Gatty Hall / AGM
Thursday 3 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting in Church
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall / Coffee Evening
Friday 4 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)
Sunday 6th		The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 7 th	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Tuesday 8 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 9 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 10 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall / Coffee Evening
Friday 11 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)
Sunday 13th		The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Service of the Word
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Tuesday 15 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 16 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 17 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall/ Coffee Evening
Friday 18 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)
Sunday 20th		The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 23 rd	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 24 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall / Vic Watson 'Town Crier'
Friday 25 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)

Saturday 26 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning in Church – Proceeds for the Church of England Children's Society
Sunday 27th		The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Service
Monday 28 th	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
Tuesday 29 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 30 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

From the Registers

Weddings

4 th July	Dean Martin Troy Scarborough & Diane June Chapman
25 th July	Brett Atkin & Lynette Marie Hempsey
26 th July	Damien Paul Thompson & Sarah Finlay
7 th August	Dean Bassett & Michelle West
8 th August	Nigel Christopher Beardow & Katie Bethany Willis
14 th August	Thomas Kirk Wilson & Catherine Ann Turner
15 th August	David Alan Stewart & Sarah Jane Foster
22 nd August	James David Biggin & Sonia Louise Gornes
23 rd August	Simon Stewart Phillips & Hannah Townsley Fisher

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

Funeral

31 st July	John Collins	92
7 th August	Linda Hague	64

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

Flower Rota September 2015

6 th	P. Prior & H. Rollins	20 th	Vacant
13 th	N. Priest	27 th	K & L Atkin

A prayer for HM The Queen

On 9 September 2015, HM The Queen will become the longest reigning monarch in the history of Britain.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ exchanged the glory of a
heavenly throne for the form of a servant,
we thank you that you have given Elizabeth our
Queen a heart to serve her people,
and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all
who were before her:
encourage us by her example to serve one another,
and to seek the common good,
until you call us all to reign with Christ in your
eternal kingdom.

Amen



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The Gardening Year – September 2015

Herbs continued – Savory – Two types of savory are grown for their spicy flavoured leaves – which are excellent as flavouring for stuffing or like mint may be used sparingly with peas and beans. Summer Savory is an erect bushy annual which grow to a height of about 12in. Its leaves when dried are generally considered to have a better flavour than those picked fresh from winter Savory. Winter Savory is a hardy evergreen perennial which grows to about the same height as summer Savory but has a more spreading habit. Its base becomes so woody that plants need to be replaced every two or three years. Grow summer and winter Savory in a sunny position in any fertile, well-drained soil.

Tarragon – Tarragon is a hardy perennial herb; it is grown for its sweetly aromatic leaves which are used to flavour fish and meat dishes and soups. The leaves are also an essential of fine herbs and are used to make Tarragon vinegar. Tarragon is easy to grow and needs very little attention once established. The herb grows best in a sunny position in light well drained soil if the soil is heavy dig in peat or well-rotted manure or compost at the rate of a bucketful to the square yard in the autumn before planting.

Thyme – although wild thyme grows profusely on chalk downs in Britain the common Thyme used in cooking is a native of Mediterranean countries. The ancient Greeks enjoyed its mild slightly sweet spiciness and in this country the evergreen plant has been used since the Middle Ages to flavour soups, casseroles and stuffings for rich meats and fish. The wiry-stemmed common thyme grows to a height of 8in. with a spread of 12in once established it can be left for three or four years. Lemon Thyme which grows to a height of 12in. and has a similar spread is cultivated in the same way as common Thyme.

A Summary of the Months' work – Lawns – aerate and scarify to remove debris. Reseed worn patches, apply autumn fertiliser.

Roses – mildew is often troublesome on young foliage produced this month. Spraying fortnightly with a rose fungicide provides both prevention and control.

Fruit – blackberry, Loganberry and hybrid berries when all the fruit has been gathered, prune old shoots and in protected situations train young growth on to the framework.

Vegetables sow seeds of spring cabbage this month. When the plants are ready to be transplanted set the plants with their bottom leaves at soil level and heel them in. Though the days may appear to be as warm and as long as in high summer, house plants are less adaptable than humans to seasonal changes and some slight additional attention is needed. Reduce watering and feeding; do not allow the more tender plants to stay too near a cold window. Place tender plants to a south facing window and move away on frosty nights.

Colin William

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



It has been a mixed bag for the 1st XI with some excellent victories followed by unexpected defeats.

The team still stands in 3rd place in the League, a single point behind Treeton but 7 full points behind leaders Aston Hall with 4th placed Wickersley only 7 adrift. The weather has taken over in August so a cancelled match against Darfield on 1st August was followed by a win against Houghton and then a defeat to leaders Aston Hall.

The 22nd August promised a win against Elsecar at home with Treeton meeting Aston Hall at Washfield Lane but the thundery weather put paid to all that. The Whitworth Cup final against Treeton at Elsecar provided a fine win with Whitley now equaling Elsecar's record of 9 wins, 6 of them in the past 7 years! The 2nd XI is hanging on to its place in Division 1 and the 3rd XI looks safely in a promotion spot.

Final home matches at Cinder Hill Lane

August 29 th	1 st XI	v	Tickhill
August 31 st (1.00pm)	3 rd XI	v	Caribbean
Sept 5 th	2 nd XI	v	Rotherham
Sept 12 th	1 st XI	v	Treeton

Please come and support your local club. Senior Saturday/Sunday matches commence 12 noon.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

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Hotpoint

Observations on our Christian faith

- They stand best who kneel most. *Anon*
- You are a Child of God. Please phone home! *Anon*
- Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. *Anon*
- What we know of God encourages us to trust Him in all we don't know. *Anon*
- Who can imagine by stretch of fancy the feelings of those who, having died in faith, wake up to enjoyment! *John Henry Newman*
- The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about. *John Main*
- Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. *Martin Luther King*
- You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. *John Bunyan*
- Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. *Victor Hugo*



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

S		P		S		S		W		B		E
K	I	R	I	A	T	H	J	E	A	R	I	M
E		I		M		A		P		E		B
T	O	E		I	L	L	A	T	E	A	S	E
C		S		Z		O				S		R
H	A	T	E	D		M	I	L	E	T	U	S
	R			A				I			N	
S	T	A	R	T	E	D		M	I	C	A	H
A		D				E		A		L		E
L	E	V	I	T	I	C	U	S		E	L	I
O		E		E		A		S		V		G
M	A	R	Y	A	N	D	J	O	S	E	P	H
E		B		R		E		L		R		T

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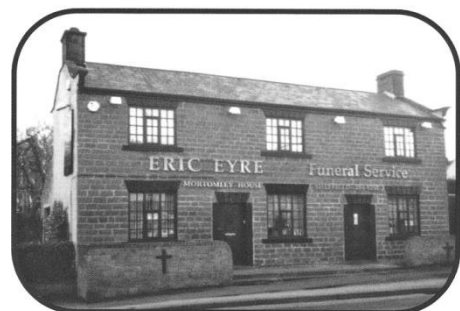
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Saint of the Month – All the angels, led by Michael – Sept 29

by David Winter

What is an angel? Easy, people think. A shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. . An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - he had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of his will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!



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Crossword Puzzle (Solution is on page 21)

Clues Across

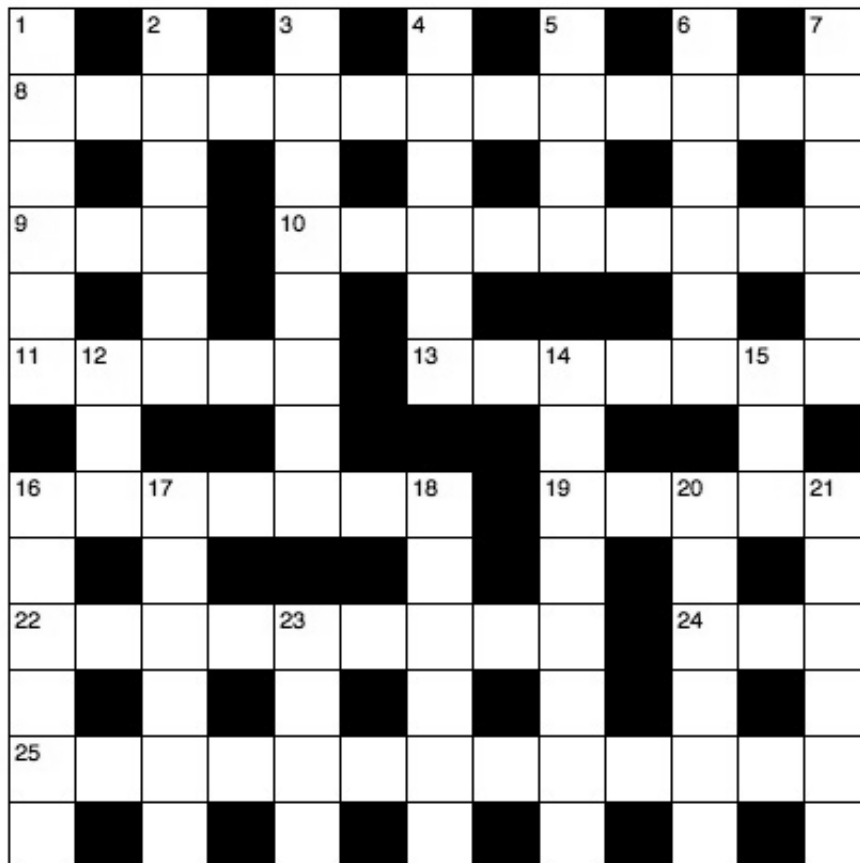
- 8** Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) **11** ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Clues Down

- 1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
2 See 24 Across
3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)

- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Solution is on Page 21



Hymns from Laodocia

The Laodicean church is described in Revelations as being ‘lukewarm’. So if the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, here are some of the hymns it might contain:

Precious Lord, Take My Finger
 Sit Up, Sit up for Jesus
 Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me
 Take My Life and Let Me Be

Prayers and Poems Page

September Prayer

Loving Father,
Please help us with all the new things
September brings: a new school year, new
stages of life, with children moving on or
out, new challenges for many as summer
gives way to autumn. Help us in this
season of change to know the constant
reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life
He freely offers to all who turn to Him.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The reality of Jesus

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
life changes,
begins afresh
in an altogether different dimension.

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
there is purpose
and energy and a calling
to leave the comfortable known-space
to go in joy and brave obedience
wherever He sends.

Overwhelmed by the risen
and real and living Lord Jesus,
everything is possible in our "Yes!"

by Daphne Kitching

When He Returns

Born as a babe in Bethlehem,
As God He laid His glory down,
Grew as a boy, became a man
With Adam's fallen race was found.

His teachings and His miracles
Brought crowds around to see Him work,
No man had ever spoke this way
As heaven somehow touched this earth.

And then the Father's plan unfurled
Restoring fellowship once lost,
To take man's sin, God's Son would die
The exchange took place on Calvary's cross.

There is a day He will return,
Not as a babe but conquering King
When Christ the risen Son of God
In triumph brings God's kingdom in.

By Megan Carter

God's Salvation, Like a City

God's salvation, like a city
Walls and ramparts strong;
All that know His grace and pity
Join the blessed throng!
Let the city gates be open
God has spoken –
Come along!

God is like a rock eternal
We can trust in Him
He'll protect from Hell infernal
If we come within!
If our loving God we're seeking
He'll be keeping
Us from sin!

Trust in God! Trust Him forever!
Trust His wondrous name!
He has said He'll never, never
Leave us to our shame!
Hold on to your Saviour tightly
And His mighty
Name proclaim!

By Nigel Beeton

Mad Hatters Tea Party

On the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland' the Friends of Ecclesfield Library celebrated the occasion by holding a Mad Hatters Tea Party. Ecclesfield Church provided the venue and a team of volunteers helped turn Lewis Carroll's magical story into a fun packed day. Children and parents enjoyed the sunshine while playing games, browsing the book stall and taking part in quizzes. The party atmosphere continued with face painting and the 'Mad Hat Competition' which produced some wonderful creations. A cake stall and refreshments were also available in the church. One of the highlights of the day was the children's 'Tea Party' where the food was served in 'Eat Me' party bags.

Friends of Ecclesfield Library would like to say a BIG thank you to all the people who supported the event on Thursday July 30th. Congratulations to the 'Mad Hatter Team' and volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the success of this first outside community event for the Library.

A new autumn programme of events is available to view on the Library website and within the Library Newsletter. If you would like to know more or are interested in getting involved, please drop in to see us.

The Library is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday morning, or contact us on 0114 246 3615 or email ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com

Harvest Supper

Friday 9th October
6:30pm till 9pm

In The Gatty Hall

Pie and Pie Supper
with Pizza for children
Quiz and Games

Tickets
£6 Adults, Children Free

Bring your own drinks

Light refreshments of tea, coffee or orange will be provided with the meal



Contact Numbers for Local Groups ☎

Ecclesfield Rainbows

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

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 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
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between
Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling
greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday
10 am to 12 noon
Tel : Angela 0114 2461095

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

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Tel: 0114 246 3651
email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.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)
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Bryony Hemming
Tel. 07983 719155
Group Scout Leader
John Otter Tel. 0114 246 1752

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Useful Contacts



Vicar Vacancy – we are currently in Interregnum'

<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mrs Katharine Lonsborough	286 4332
	Mrs Irene Proctor	246 0373
	Mr Andrew Robinson	246 3646
	Mr Michael Waldron	246 3091
<u>Readers:</u>	Mrs Pat Clarke	257 7191
	Mrs Stephanie Dale	245 2392

<u>Pastoral Workers:</u>	Mrs Pat Wood	246 5086
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Church Office:

Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm 245 0106

Church Choir Practice in Church

Friday 7:30 pm - Contact: Don Knott 246 8430

Music Group Practice in Church

Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker 246 0746

Mother's Union in Gatty Hall

1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm

Contact: Maureen Lambert 246 9690

Ecclesfield Ladies Group in Gatty Hall

Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron 245 5492

Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry

Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst 286 2766

Gatty Hall Bookings,

Contact: Mrs Margaret Roberts 246 3993

Baptisms: Contact – Mrs Pat Clarke 257 7191

Weddings: Contact – The Church Office 245 0106

“ Or email: ecclesfield.weddings@gmail.com

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