

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for March 2016

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Price 60p

First Words...

- **Open to all** – all of the events listed below are open to anyone at all, so do feel free to join us and perhaps get to know us a little better. A friendly welcome is guaranteed except perhaps on Maundy Thursday evening and at the Three Hour service on Good Friday as these are rather more serious, reflective, times so people tend to arrive and leave quietly.
- **Mastersingers** - will be singing in church on Saturday 12th March 7.00pm. Tickets available at the Church Coffee Shop or from Kip McGrath Sheffield North on 0114 257 0777 at £8, £6 concessions, £1 accompanied children. Early booking is advised.
- **Lent continues.** The Wednesday evening Lent Meetings have been well attended and people have found them to be a thoughtful time as we travel with Jesus towards Easter. Do join us for the last three if you are able - 2nd, 9th and 16th March at 7.30pm and enjoy a drink and biscuit and a chat before you leave. Just an hour all told.
- **Lent Lunches** are such a good time to meet others and enjoy a hearty soup and provide funding for the work of Christian Aid at the same time. Only three more to go, Fridays 4th, 11th and 18th March at 12.30pm.
- **Prayer Breakfast** in church at 9 am on Saturday 19th March. Such a good time together.
- **Holy Week.** We begin Holy Week on Monday 21st March with a service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm. The Maundy Thursday Service will take place on Thursday 24th at 7.30pm. Good Friday's Three Hours at the Cross begins at 12 noon and ends at 3pm. The church doors will be opened every twenty minutes for people to enter or leave during a hymn. That will be on the hour, twenty past the hour and twenty to the hour. This is a time of thoughtful reflection and worthy of priority in our busy lives.
- **Easter Day.** Do come and celebrate Easter with us as we welcome Bishop Peter to our 10am Parish Communion service on Sunday 27th March. There may well be an Easter Egg for the children! That day will also contain an 8.30am service of Holy Communion and a service of Prayer and Praise at 6.30pm.

Jeni Fryer

Front Cover – Easter Flower Arrangement
Back Cover – Mastersingers & Easter Crafts Poster

Thought for the month - Where is Jesus when you want him?

Travelling through Lent, as we are at present, with all the stories of his healings and teachings, it is easy to imagine that for his disciples and those around him it would be easy to keep tabs on him, to know where Jesus was, what he was up to and how he wanted them to be. But I wonder if that is really true?

Lent began with him disappearing into the desert for forty days and nights. Who knew where he was then? I can't imagine him saying "I'll be back on the 23rd the month after next, so don't wait around for me. I'll catch up with you later."

He certainly did catch up with them later its true, built his team of close followers, lived, loved and taught them so much. So much of which they then passed on to us through their writings in the New Testament. So much about God's loving presence in all of our lives, Jesus own life on earth as God's son, his works of healing and teaching and exactly who he was - and they never lost sight of him ever again. How could that be? We know, and we will commemorate, that he died on the cross on Good Friday after a harrowing time of being betrayed, deserted and tortured. We will attempt to walk in his footsteps with special services starting on the Monday of Holy Week moving on to a service to mark the very first Holy Communion service on Maundy Thursday, and then on Good Friday we will stand with his disciples as they saw him whipped and ill-treated by the powers that be, until the final agony of the cross. (See First Words for details of times etc.) Surely that must have been, should have been, the end for his followers. All their dreams lying in tatters, everything Jesus appeared to promise seemingly no longer possible. Surely they must have thought - 'Where is Jesus when you want him?'

He was dead. Lying in a tomb. A heavy stone rolled across the entrance. And his followers were grieving, needing him like they had never needed him before, fearing for their own lives if recognised as his followers and locking themselves away.

Thankfully that isn't the end of the story. On Easter Day we remember and celebrate how Jesus rose from the dead, turned the disciples fear and dread into joy and hope in believing. He appeared several times in different circumstances, enough for them to know who they had seen, and then he left, ascended, back to his Heavenly Father. But for his followers their lives had changed, joy and confidence replacing grief and fear and the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate at Pentecost, sealed their relationship with Jesus for ever. But all of this happened not just for the disciples then.

The truth is Jesus is just as available to you and me now as he was to his followers in those Easter days. Those who had loved him in his earthly life. We too can make a relationship of love with him which is life enhancing, life changing, life-long. Where is Jesus when you want him?

Somewhere very close. When we do feel him close we find ourselves inspired and led and challenged too. If he seems far away at times we can rest in the faith of others, our church friends who are a family to us, and support and share with us in our need and our joy.

We sang a well-known hymn yesterday – All my hope on God is founded which ends ‘Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.’
Come and follow with us.

The gospel writers, all witnesses to Jesus life and death and resurrection tell the story in the Bible. Matthew chapter 26, Mark chapter 14, Luke Chapter 22 verse 47 and John chapter 18 Why not choose one of them and read it to the end of the Gospel - and be amazed.

Jeni Fryer

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HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Madatum novum da vobis' – a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

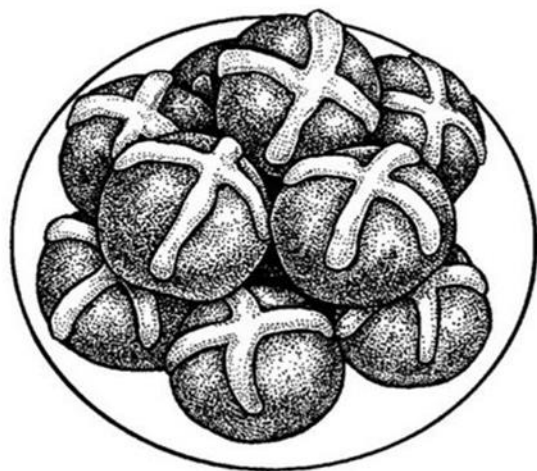
Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



**What do you get when you
pour boiling water down a
rabbit hole?**

A hot cross bunny.

**Why couldn't the rabbit fly
home for Easter?**

He didn't have the hare fare.

On how to run a church council meeting

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your Vicar running out of the room half way through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone has to respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.
4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.
5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message. These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Bishop's Letter - A Sheffield parable

(And an inspiring true story)

Posted by Bishop Steven Croft on 9th February 2016



Lent is the time of year when Christians give something up – usually food - or else take something on for the sake of others.

Let me tell you a true story for the beginning of Lent about kindness and practical help.

Sohail Mumtaz is a leader of the Muslim Community Association in Sheffield. Last year, during Ramadan, he challenged one of his friends, Lee Ward, to have a one day fast.

Lee fasted and the experience of going hungry for a day made him think of the children in his community who are hungry. These are the people who are regularly helped by the S2 Foodbank. The Muslim Community Association and the churches both provide food and funding for distribution.

Lee and Sohail are taxi drivers. They wanted to do something more to help the children of their community. They approached other taxi drivers across the city. Together they raised the money and gave the time to take 96 parents and children to Cleethorpes for a day at the seaside in September. Many had never been to the coast, and most had never had a holiday

Deni Ennals, the Foodbank co-ordinator, organized the trip. Friends and neighbours donated car seats for children, buckets and spades, sun hats, lotion, items for the picnic and cash for fish and chips. Every family was given some spending money for donkey rides and the fairgrounds. Everything went without a hitch. The day was a huge success.

Deni wrote afterwards to say thank you to the foodbank supporters: “This one day away from the drudge and poverty of their normal lives did more for many of our clients than any antidepressant many have been prescribed. It’s a shame we could not bottle the fun and laughter and bring it home to help them through the winter months, when many will not only experience food poverty but also fuel poverty, where homes will have no heating and cooking facilities will become a luxury”.

As far as we know, there are 50-60 Food Banks across South Yorkshire and the Diocese of Sheffield. It would be excellent if none of them were needed but all of them are.

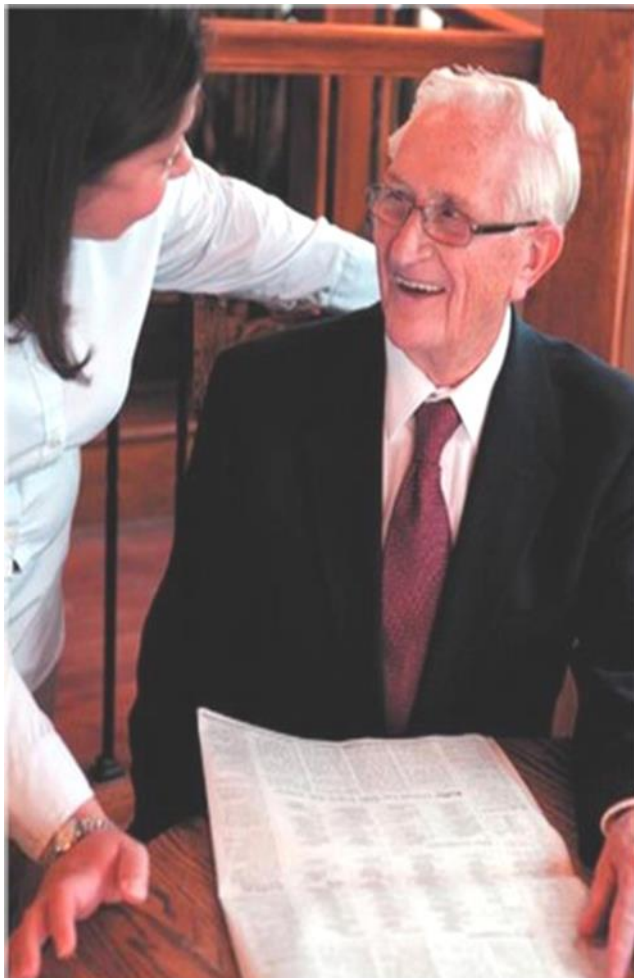
Most of them are connected to churches and to other faith communities who supply volunteers and donations of food. A wide range of community groups support them.

Most clients don't use the food banks regularly but a very wide range of people have to use them from time to time. Recent research on provision in the Diocese can be accessed in the Feeding Britain Sheffield Diocese Report. The findings link to the All Parliamentary Group on Hunger's Feeding Britain Report. See links at end.

Why do people need food banks in modern Britain? We have food in abundance – enough to waste in most of our homes. There are many different reasons but top of the list in every survey are delays or errors in paying benefits, problems with disability benefits, or the application of benefit sanctions (where payment of a benefit is delayed or stopped because a claimant has not met certain conditions). People may be out of work, or they may be in very low paid jobs. Most commonly, people use food banks when there is some unforeseen crisis in their lives.

It is important to understand that something can be done about most of these reasons. Next week the General Synod will debate the impact of benefit sanctions. The Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales have brought a motion to debate.

Continues on Page 13



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Will You Remember Them – March

North Korea - Trafficked to China and abandoned

Trafficked to China and abandoned, a North Korean woman has become a Christian after attending a Bible study group run by Open Doors workers.

Min-Hee was left in a desperate situation after her husband was sent to prison. So when a woman approached her, offering a way to make money fast by smuggling goods from China, she was compelled to accept. But once in China, Min-Hee was abandoned. “I had no idea where I was and how I could go back,” she said “I cried for several daysto be safe; I had to get married to a Han-Chinese husband”.

This she did and, three years later, she joined a bible study group. “The other North Korean women in my village told me their lives had changed a lot since attending those meetings.

There, I heard the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time.” Min---Hee’s new faith helped her get along with her new family and consider her future; “I dedicate my entire life to our Father God and wish to help expand His kingdom.

I pray for my only son, that he will be salt and light in his classroom and his neighbourhood. I also want to be a Bible teacher who will preach the gospel so people will get saved... God saved my life from death”.

Please pray:

- Praise God for Min—Hee’s faith and inspirational willingness to serve the Lord.
- For trafficked women in North Korea, that they will hear the gospel and experience God’s healing
- That the Lord will protect all who deliver the ministry of the gospel to trafficked people. **Amen**

JD

Editor: North Korea is the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian for the 14th year in a row. Christians face arrest, torture, imprisonment and death for daring to believe there is a higher authority than the nation's leader, Kim Jong-un. Many follow Jesus in secret; parents often don't even tell their children about their faith for fear they will be revealed. Thousands of other Christians are trapped in horrific labour camps and isolated closed villages. But despite the risks, North Koreans are still choosing to follow Christ.

The Mastersingers' Musical Extravaganza on March 12

By Lesley Gibson

A BUDDING Sheffield child star will take centre stage to sing a medley of solos at a top Northern vocal group's concert at Ecclesfield Parish Church in March.

Natasha Flounders, 11, enjoyed her stage debut in December, when she was picked from dozens of hopefuls to sing 'We're Walking in the Air' at a Christmas production of The Snowman in front of a full house at Sheffield City Hall.

Now she has been given another chance to shine at The Mastersingers' musical extravaganza on March 12.

Natasha, a student at the Sheffield North centre of private tuition specialists Kip McGrath, in Ecclesfield, was given the golden opportunity after her tutor, centre director David Kaye, watched a video of her City Hall performance.

David, a baritone with The Mastersingers, who have performed live on TV and Radio 2 as well as throughout the country, said: 'I was really impressed. She has a stunning voice and I want to help nurture her talent.'

Natasha's mother Mandy, 42, a teaching assistant who also has three sons, said: 'David gives Natasha maths tuition. Her progress has come on in leaps and bounds thanks to David. He is very patient and encourages his pupils in their outside interests, as well as their school work.'

'Natasha was so excited when she won the chance to sing 'Walking in the Air' and couldn't wait to tell David. He has been really supportive.'

Natasha said: 'I couldn't believe it when I was picked to sing Walking in the Air. For weeks before the performance, I would lie awake thinking: 'Gosh, I feel so nervous. I hope I will be good.' I felt like that right up until I walked onto the stage.'

'But as soon as I started singing, my nerves just disappeared and I felt amazing – as if I really was Walking in the Air. It was so exciting – one of the best experiences I've ever had. My class from school came to support me and I felt so proud. Now I'm really looking forward to performing with the Mastersingers.'

The Mastersingers, a semi-professional vocal ensemble backed by their own band, has 12 members, male and female, from throughout the North of England. The prestigious group's members were all hand-picked by the directors and together, their voices span the entire vocal range.

They are a non-religious group but often use churches as concert venues. 'Churches have amazing acoustics and provide a beautiful setting,' explained David.

Continues on page 27

Malcolm Chamberlain, Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, will put a “friendly” amendment to the motion on behalf of this Diocese to strengthen its impact, calling on the government “to initiate a full independent review of the impact and efficacy of the sanctions and conditionality regime”. The background papers for the Synod debate are GS 2019A Impact of Sanctions on Benefits Claimants and GS 2019B.

But back to Lent and giving something up. How can we help, today? All Christians at this time of year are encouraged to fast in some way and offer practical support and help to those around us.

- Foodbanks across the Diocese are looking for support and help: volunteers, supplies, practical aid of all kinds. It may be that your own local church is already supporting a foodbank. If it's not, can you connect with one?
- Foodbanks are even more effective when they build community, treat people with respect and help and support them in other ways. The Sheffield taxi drivers are an example to us all. What can you and I do to help?
- Recent research suggests that foodbanks help more people when they make advice available within the foodbank on benefits, on money management, on debt. This already happens in some foodbanks in Sheffield (including S2) but needs to spread to more.
- Food waste is a massive scandal in modern Britain. What can we do to reduce the amount of edible food we throw away? If you've not seen it yet, I can recommend the excellent documentary by Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, “Hugh's War on Waste”
- Foodbanks are needed because there are holes in the net of welfare provision. It's important for churches and others to lobby government to mend the nets so that no-one, and especially no child, goes hungry. There is more on that in this report from the Church Action on Poverty <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/safetynet>

Lent is a time to pause, to slow down, to reflect on our lives, to connect more deeply with God and with our neighbours. As you give something up this year, take time to help others who do not have enough.

+Steven

Feeding Britain Sheffield Diocese Report

http://www.stmarysecclesfield.com/files/Reports/FBSD_Report.pdf

All Parliamentary Group on Hunger's Feeding Britain Report

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St Mary's - Weekly Services

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) - On 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

10.00 am Services

1st Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ and choir

2nd Sunday of the month - Service of the Word with music group

3rd Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

4th Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

5th Sunday of the month - Sunday Celebration Services

12:00 pm Baptism Service

Baptism Service 1st Sunday of the month – (Except: August no baptisms)

4.00 pm Living Stones Service

An interactive service for children and families 3rd Sunday of the month

6.30 pm Evening Service

Except: 2nd Sunday of the month Holy Communion and 4th Sunday of the month
Prayer and Praise

Midweek Holy Communion – Thursdays at 9.30 am

Eva Ratcliffe Service - Wednesday at 10.30am

St Mary's - Activities & Groups

Church Office Opening times

Tuesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Coffee Shop

Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Bell Ringers

Tuesday 7.30 pm Bell ringing practice

Friday 7.30 pm Silent Bell ringing practice

Choir Practice

Friday 7.30 pm Choir practice in choir vestry

Music Group Practice

Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church

Wedding Bookings

Thursday 7.15 pm to 8.45 pm wedding booking evening

Church Diary Items to Note for March 2016

Day and Date	Time	Item
Wednesday, 2 th	19:30	Lent Meeting
Friday, 4 th	12:30	Super Soup Lunch
Sunday, 6 th	12:00	Baptisms
Monday, 7 th	19:30	PCC Meeting
Wednesday, 9 th	09:15	School Visit R Stordy
“	19:30	Lent Meeting
Thursday, 10 th	14:00	Hartwell House
Friday, 11 th	12:30	Super Soup Lunch
Saturday, 12 th	19:00	Masters Singers Concert
Monday, 14 th	14:00	Hartwell House
“	19:30	Fabric Team Meeting
“	19:30	Baptism Prep
Wednesday, 16 th	13:00	Primary School (Easter)
“	19:30	Lent Meeting
Thursday, 17 th	19:30	Finance Team
Friday, 18 th	12:30	Super Soup Lunch
Saturday, 19 th	09:00	Prayer breakfast
Sunday, 20 th	16:00	Living Stones
Monday, 21 st	19:30	Holy Week Service
Thursday, 24 th	19:30	Holy Week service
Friday, 25 th	12:00	Good Friday Three Hours at The Cross
Sunday, 27 th	18:30	Easter Day Prayer and Praise

From the Registers

Baptisms

7th February Finley James Turner

*May he know the love of God in his life and may all things
of the Spirit live and grow in them.*

Weddings

12th February Matthew Kennington & Adele Wright

14th February Andrew Bennett & Sarah Kent

20th February Nicholas Hanson & Eleanor Stanley

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

Funeral

3rd February Joslyn Gittens 68

11th February Jean Colton 86

17th February Christine Risely 80

19th February Kathleen Pepper 84

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

Flower Rota February 2016

6th	Lent – No Flowers	20th	No Flowers (Palm Sunday)
13th	Lent – No Flowers	27th	Easter Flowers

Ecclesfield Guide May Queen

Thursday 12th May, Friday 13th May
And Saturday 14th May



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The Gardening Year – March 2016

As the days lengthen and stronger sun dries out the soil, planting begins and the gardener's year gets under way. This month has the most pronounced variations from day to day and the widest variations from year to year. This contrast between weather in the north and south is at its greatest.

The Flower Garden - plant hardy flowers such as carnations, pinks, gladioli etc., Transplant pansies, violas and snapdragons into their flowering quarters. Violas are effective as a carpet under dwarf roses. Plant 6in apart; stir the soil amongst wallflowers, forget-me-nots, bulbs and other spring flowers. Remember to sow flowers for cutting these will be valued later on.

Roses - may be pruned in March, prune strong growing kinds lightly and weak ones more severely. Leave tea roses until the first week in April as they are more tender than the hybrid perpetuals, and new growths are more lightly to be damaged by frosts. If roses are not pruned every year they would become unshapely, tangled masses of diseased and dead wood with their blooms becoming progressively smaller on weak shoots and their lives shortened considerably. Pruning encourages healthy, shapely growth.

Fruit - protect apricots and peaches on walls by use of fleece or netting, this keeps several degrees of frost from damaging the blooms. As soon as the warm days come look out for weed seedlings and hoe between the fruit trees to destroy them. Hoeing also makes the soil sweeter and allows air to penetrate to the plants roots, and bring soil pests to the surface to be eaten by birds. Cut back autumn fruiting raspberries to within an inch of the ground and give a top dressing of well decayed manure.

Vegetables - most of the main crop vegetables are sown this month. When the weather is suitable sow broad beans, broccoli, cauliflowers, cabbage and Brussels sprouts in lines or boxes for transplanting later. If the weather is suitable later this month early potatoes can be planted, leave main crop varieties until April.

Colin Williams

March weather folklore:

“A dry March and a wet May - Fill barns and bays with corn and hay.”

“March winds and April showers? Bring forth May flowers.”

“If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb”

“As it rains in March so it rains in June.”



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Miscellaneous observations on the Christian life

- The distinguishing mark of a Christian is his confidence in the love of Christ, and the yielding of his affections to Christ in return. - *CH Spurgeon*
- Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week. - *Joseph Addison*
- Some people don't let their left hand know what their right hand is doing because they don't want to embarrass their right hand. - *Anon*
- Our mistakes won't irreparably damage our lives unless we let them. - *James Sweaney*
- A grouch always looks as if he were weaned on a pickle. - *Anon*
- Patience achieves more than force. - *Edmund Burke*
- Because of God's grace, failure is never final. - *Anon*
- Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting. - *Anon*
- God's faithfulness always surpasses our unfaithfulness. - *Anon*
- My troubles melt away before a fervent prayer ...like snow before the sun. - *St John Vianney*
- Believe in God and you'll believe in miracles, believe in his Son, and you'll experience one. - *Anon*



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

W	I	N	E		T	H	E	A	L	E	R	T
R		A			E		S		N		U	
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C	A	N	N	O	T		E	L	I	S	H	A
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A		T		N		O				A		R
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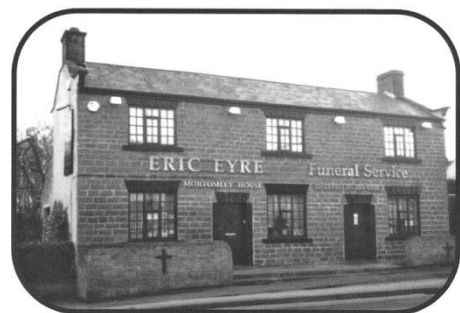
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High Green
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March 20th - Palm Sunday

On palm Sunday March 20th at 6.30pm the choir, soloists and friends will perform the Cantata “Olivet to Calvary”. This cantata (short oratorio) is an Act of Worship narrating in song, The Easter Message.

There are hymns for the congregation to sing interspersed in the work. Many churches will be performing this cantata or other similar works. Come bring your friends and worship God in this most important Christian Festival.



24th March - Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples’ feet. (See John 13) Jesus washed his disciples’ feet for a purpose:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is ‘mandatum novum do vobis’. The word ‘mundy’ is thus a corruption of the Latin ‘mandatum’ (or command). The ceremony of the ‘washing of the feet’ of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord’s Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord’s Supper, saying, ‘this is my body’ and ‘this is my blood’ as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

John’s gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Easter Day – The Most Joyful Day of the Year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

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Crossword Puzzle (Solution is on page 21)

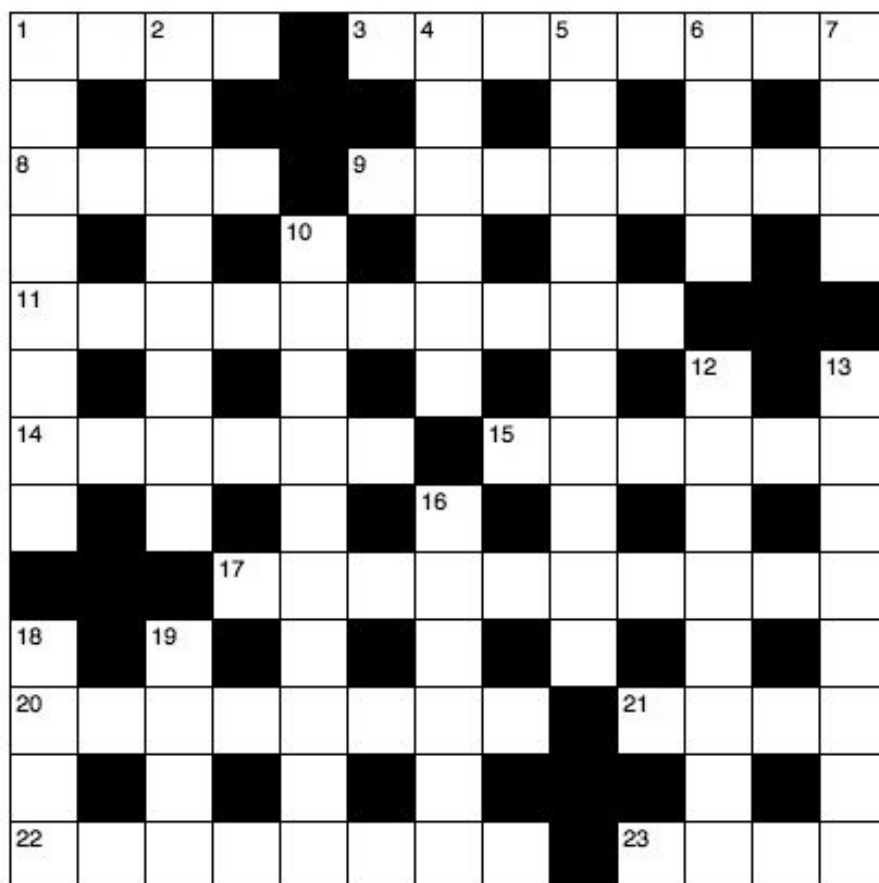
Clues Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Clues Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

Solution is on Page 21



The Mastersingers' Musical Extravaganza - continued

The Mastersingers will be singing a range of vocal favourites. 'The highlight will be hits by Queen as people have never heard them before, including our take on Bohemian Rhapsody,' David said.

He encouraged Natasha to choose her own songs and she has picked a selection of hits, including 'Quiet' from the musical Matilda, 'Tomorrow' from Annie, 'Castle in the Clouds' from Les Miserables, and 'Somewhere only We Know' by Lily Allen

Natasha only began singing seriously a year ago, after teachers running her school choir spotted her extraordinary talent and a friend recommended the Pius Hume Singing School in Fulwood, Sheffield, which put her forward for the City Hall solo part. She said: 'I hope to star in musicals when I'm older. '

Watch out for her on future series of Britain's Got Talent, The Voice and The X Factor, too. 'I want to get some more experience before I apply for those,' she giggled. 'But I might do it in the future.'

Tickets for the concert on March 12 at 7pm are available from Kip McGrath Sheffield North on 01142 570777 at £8 per head (£6 concessions). Places are limited so early booking is advised.

© *Lesley Gibson February 2016*

Prayers and Poems Page

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for his life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by his work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness we praise and honour you this Easter-time.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

That Day

That day was a day like never before
As the Saviour died and the darkness grew,
Earth shuddered and rocks were split apart
As the veil of the temple was torn in two.

The centurion who witnessed all these things,
The earthquake, the One who was nailed to
the wood,
Seeing Him die could only say,
'Surely this man was the Son of God'.

Death was defeated, the stone rolled away -
And man was released from all his bonds,
Christ rose as victor that glorious day.

The Light had pushed the darkness back,
He now stands resplendent for all to see,
Forgiveness, redemption all wrought on the
cross,
The eternal fruits of Calvary.

By Megan Carter

The Song of the Spirit

O when Your Spirit softly sings
Within our hearts of stone
Lord, speak to us of Godly things
And make our hearts your home.

Sometimes our doubts like briars grow
Sometimes our faith is weak,
O Spirit, sing, that doubt may go,
Lord, help us hear you speak.

Transform us through your Spirit's voice
And set our hearts alight,
So truly may our hearts rejoice
And shine with Godly light.

For those who hear the Spirit's song,
Are filled then with His power!
Their light shall shine the whole day long
And praise fills ev'ry hour!

by Nigel Beeton

Ecclesfield Park - Annual Easter Egg Hunt And Craft Activities

Tuesday 22 March - 1pm to 3pm

Meet at the Bowling Pavilion

£1 per participating child

Includes Egg Hunt prize & Craft activities

Refreshments will be on sale - We look forward to seeing you
Organised by the Revitalising Ecclesfield Park & Pavilion Group



Please join us on one or more Fridays in Lent for our

Lent Super Soup Lunches

@ St. Mary's – Ecclesfield

Cost £ 3

Includes: Choice of Soup, Roll, Butter and Coffee

Service times 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Dates - Fridays in Lent:

**19th February - 26th February - 4th March
11th March - 18th March**

Cakes may also be available at extra cost



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

Run by the community for the community.
Volunteer helpers always needed.
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

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
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Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 246 4714
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Secretary – Joe Webster 245 2518
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Mrs P Blackburn ☎ 0114 246 8453



Useful Contacts



Vicar Vacancy – we are currently in Interregnum'

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

<u>Pastoral Workers:</u>	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: Phil Hirst 286 2766

Gatty Hall Bookings,

Contact: Margaret Roberts 246 3993

Baptisms: Contact – Pat Clarke

257 7191

Weddings: Contact – The Church Office

245 0106

“ Or email: ecclesfield.weddings@gmail.com

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

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Saturday 12th March, 7pm

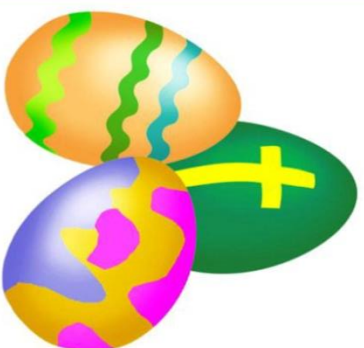
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Accompanied Children £1
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Easter Crafts for Children

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Easter Crafts for Children 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

On Palm Sunday - 20th March 2016

£2.00 per child.

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

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

www.stmarysecclfield.com

See our Forthcoming Events page.

