

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for November 2016

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First Words

In November we remember - things and people - and not just on the 5th of November! We begin with one of the regular fixtures for this month our annual Memorial Service to which we invite those who have been bereaved in the past year. It is a time to remember and to reflect on the gift of other people, on how we become ourselves in relationship. It is also a time of hope that those whom we mourn and love and cherish are in the hands of a God who is our Father.

This year's memorial service is actually a little before the start of November - it will be held on the **30th October at 4pm**. Please pray for those from Church and from the wider community who will attend this service.

The other great time of remembering in November falls this year on **Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Sunday**. The service will begin in Church at 10am and will culminate with the ceremony at the war Memorial in the churchyard. Through my ministry I have seen Remembrance Sunday grow in importance in the life of the Church and the wider community. It is always particularly moving for the families of those who are currently serving in the armed forces.

November ends on a very different note. Advent begins on **Sunday 27th November**. Advent of course is all about looking forward. This Advent we have a special service of **Advent Carols at 6.30pm**. An opportunity to come to Church and sing some of the finest hymns in the hymnbook!

Tim



Front Cover – Five Years On - The eight bells being removed from St. Mary's in 2011, they returned with two new bells in January 2012 and were dedicated on Saturday the 11th of February.

Looking back it seems no time at all, how quickly time flies.

Back Cover – Ecclesfield in Bloom Poster

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Thought for the month

The Kingdom of God as a focus for our prayers and our worship dominates the month of November. The Church of England almost, but not quite, introduced a new 'season' into the liturgical year. It was to be called 'Kingdom Season'. Though the name has disappeared, the idea of the kingdom is with us throughout the month.

The kingdom of God, or in Matthew's Gospel 'Kingdom of heaven,' reminds us that we were made by God for God and for eternity. In November with Remembrance and Memorial services, we are forced to remember that this life is short and that it holds us by a slender thread.

We are also reminded that we are not made only for this world. We are made for eternity because we are made for God. It was the poet John Keats who called our world 'a vale of soul-making'; a place where we prepare for eternity.

The Bible actually says very little about heaven. Most of what it does teach comes in the form of images and parables - our finite minds cannot really comprehend eternity. But the Bible does tell us that 'heaven' is to be with the Father, the source of life and love and joy and peace for ever (John 14); and once we know this we will not care whether the gates are literally made of pearls or not!

The 'season' ends with the last Sunday before Advent, Christ the King. We celebrate Jesus as our Lord and our Saviour. He was and is a king, but is unlike any other king or emperor who has ever existed. He exemplifies not power and might but love, mercy and humility. It is this king who defeats death and hell and opens to us the way to the kingdom. He is the king who came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life for us. As we turn to Christ and follow Him, so His kingdom in this world grows; and we live our lives in the light and hope of the eternal kingdom which Jesus promises us.

There is a lot for us to think about in November as we gather to hear the scriptures, to worship and to pray. Despite the sadness of memorials and Remembrance which dominate the start of the month, November is, for me above all a time to recall the hope to which we have been called in Jesus.

Tim

Prayer for the Month

I come from good Yorkshire Methodist stock. Perhaps this is why I love the Wesley's so much. To my mind there is no finer hymn writer in the English language than Charles Wesley who understood that people remember hymns words more than they do sermons, and so he taught theology through his hymns. His hymns have stood the test of time and are as popular now as they were when he wrote them.

John Wesley is also someone I admire and have learned much from. One of his short, simple prayers bears memorising:

*Lord Jesus, come and do everything that you need to do in me so
that you can do everything that you want to do through me.*

The prayer is both hopeful and realistic. We are called and chosen and redeemed by Christ, but the process of becoming faithful children of the Father is a lifetime's journey. Each one of us is a work in progress. There is still, and always will be this side of heaven, much work for the Holy Spirit to do in us. God loves us as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us as we are. The theologians call this our sanctification, God making us into the people He calls us to be.

The second line of Wesley's short prayer reminds us that God did not choose us for our benefit or pleasure. He has work for us to do. Paul puts it like this in Ephesians 2:10,

*For what we are he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*

This prayer is one that will carry us in our failures to live as God's children, for it acknowledges that we have far to go, and it is a prayer that keeps us humble at times when we may be tempted not to be, for it reminds us that we still have a way to go on the journey of life.

Tim

On working with young people

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation, but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service - whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge – a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St. Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Common Ground

Malcolm Chamberlain, Archdeacon of Sheffield & Rotherham

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

Tuesday 11 October 2016 was a significant day for the mission of the Church in Sheffield, as the evening played host to a special service to celebrate the signing of the "City of Sheffield Covenant Partnership in an Extended Area". That snappy title is the legal descriptor to a document that will enable a closer working relationship between Anglican and Methodist churches across the four Sheffield deaneries and the Sheffield circuit, affecting some 120 church communities.

In front of a full congregation at St Andrew's Psalter Lane LEP, which included the Mayor of Sheffield and other civic and faith leaders from the city, Bishop Peter and Reverend Gill Newton signed an agreement aiming to develop:

- ❖ Congregational sharing, worshipping, witnessing and working together;
- ❖ The strong personal commitment and collegiality of church leaders at all levels; and
- ❖ Joint strategic planning.

So why did we spend two years working on this and what do we hope it will achieve? Well, alongside embodying the vision of the psalmist (Psalm 133) and seeking to obey Christ's 'new command' to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34), the hope is that the covenant covers the legal ground so that local church communities can just get on with getting on for the sake of the Kingdom! As such, the Covenant Partnership provides a legal framework that local churches can easily opt into, opening up a range of 'permissions' for sharing together that were previously only accessible through developing formal Local Ecumenical Projects.

The effectiveness of the covenant, however, lies in the future rather than the past. As both the Anglican and Methodist churches are re-imagining ministry to better serve the missional needs of the 21st Century, it seems a no-brainer that we work more closely to be strategic in allocating resources, gathering for worship, and engaging with our local communities. As Canon Mark Russell challenged the congregation at the signing service in his sermon, the covenant should not simply remain words on a page but must now be worked out in local churches working together to serve the needs of their communities and make the love of Christ known in word and action. Equally, the hope is that the spirit of this partnership will begin to encompass other Christian denominations and traditions, as well as triggering consideration of similar covenants in other extended areas.

In explaining his 'new command', Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35) – may this covenant partnership mark a significant step forward in our churches being recognised, by the communities they serve, as faithful followers of the Saviour of the world.

You can read the full Covenant Agreement @

http://www.sheffield.anglican.org/UserFiles/File///Guest_Blogs/Covenant-Agreement-Final.pdf

Miscellaneous observations on politics

Political campaign: a war in which everybody shoots from the lip.

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough, nor good enough, to be trusted with unlimited power. – *Charles Caleb Colton*

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. - *George Nathan*

All free governments are managed by the combined wisdom and folly of the people.
- *James Garfield*

Vote for the man who promises least. He'll be the least disappointing. - *Bernard Baruch*.

We all know that Prime Ministers are wedded to the truth, but like other wedded couples, they sometimes live apart. - *Saki (H H Munro 1870 -1916)*

He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career. - *George Bernard Shaw*

What a genius the Labour Party has for cutting itself in half and letting the two parts writhe in public. - *Cassandra (Sir William Connor; early 20th century journalist)*

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book. *Ronald Reagan*



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Will You Remember Them – November 2016

Ethiopia - God uses coffee to change Belen's life

When Belen's husband rejected her because of her faith, she was able to open a coffee shop to support her family thanks to the prayers and gifts of Open Doors supporters.

Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and coffee ceremonies form an integral part of the Ethiopian culture. If an Ethiopian wants to welcome anyone into their community, they prepare a coffee ceremony. Palm leaves are spread onto the floor, roast some coffee beans in the presence of the guest, grind the coffee, and then proceed to brew it in a clay pot ---- the strongest coffee you are likely to taste in a long time!

It is this obsession with coffee that has given Belen the opportunity to provide for her young family through her coffee shop. She has three sons aged 8, 6, and 4. Before Belen met Jesus, she says: "my life was in ruins. I struggle with bad dreams and many things tormented me" Whilst being rejected and threatened by many of her relatives, she was pressured to deny her Christian faith, but her faith holds fast.

The prayers and practical support of Open Doors and other Christians has enabled her to pay back various debts and turn the coffee shop into a popular and growing concern. "The children are going to school and have not been forced to beg on the street. I am tested and some people hate me and tell me to leave Jesus, but that will not happen because I have seen His mercy. If He uses my suffering for His glory and my spiritual wellbeing, let it be so. The hands of God are with me."

Please Pray

- Praise God for saving Belen and for the strength she has shown in enduring persecution.
- Thank God for using open doors to help Belen to provide for her family.
- For her husband to open his heart to Jesus and return to his wife and children.
- For God's favour and protection over Belen as members of her family continue to reject her.

JD

Ecclesfield Ladies Group

On Thursday the 22nd September

Andrew Firth came to give one of his illustrated talks. This one was about 'Heartbeat Country'. He started in the North York Moors coming down to Whitby and the Story of the Whitby Jet in the Victoria era also about Captain Cook and his travels. Then inland via the Steam Railway to Grossmont, Fylingdales and the 'Golf Balls' early warning system. Finishing at Scarborough and Filey with its fishing trade.

On Thursday 20th October

Pam Eames came to show us an 'Insight to Jewellery'. This was about the history of gem stones. Starting with Neanderthal Man with their bone and wood designs Each country all over the world has their own Gem stones Gold in Africa, Rubies and sapphires especially countries near the Equator when the earthquakes happened in the beginning of our time. Pam brought a good selection of jewellery for sale: necklaces, earrings bracelets and told us which gem stones they were made of: - Tiger Eye for example or Jade. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

PB



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Saturday 26th November from 10am until
12 noon, at the EPPIC Theatre,
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Admission 50p

Why a morning run helps me

‘run with perseverance the race that is set before me’

The quotation above is from Paul’s letter to the Hebrews. When I was on holiday recently I was reflecting on this verse from scripture. It inspired me to write this article.

As I was in Greece, I needed to do my morning run very early in the morning before the sun had risen above the mountains. In actual fact this was around 7am. It was on the last full day of our holiday on the island on Andros.

My general routine for my run is that the first thing I do whilst running is think through all the things for which I am grateful and thanking God for them. Then I think of those people I know who are struggling and pray for them and ask for God’s blessing on them. Then I move on to the things I have planned for the day and pray for help and guidance.

I am then in ‘state’ to start the day in a positive way and feel well prepared for whatever the day holds. This particular day, I had a lot to be grateful for, we had had a fantastic holiday, had a great time with some wonderful friends, the weather had been beautiful, and hey I was running in such a beautiful place – despite the hills (honestly, worse than Sheffield). Then there were all the people I met whilst running – the fishermen bringing the night’s catch into the harbour, the taxi drivers waiting for fares to the port for the early ferries, the shopkeepers opening up and the taverna owners setting up for breakfast. As I exchanged ‘kalimeras’ (the Greek for good morning) and assorted words of encouragement, I prayed for each of them. My plans for the day included another windsurfing lesson for which I was excited, as I could now stand up and nearly turn around!!

As I continued my run, I spotted the fins of a couple of dolphins swimming not too far offshore. What a magnificent sight and a really uplifting. I find that I am much more aware of what is going on around me whilst I am out running. Not five minutes later I was running along a headland and I came face to face with a goat.

It was after this that I was reflecting on how much better prepared I am for the day after going for a run and I was reminded of the verse from Paul’s letter to the Hebrews 12 verse 1:

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.’

I feel the verse really applies to my attitudes following going running. Strangely enough, later on that day I had an e-mail from Pat telling me the theme of Living Stones that week was running the race with St Paul!!

KL

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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 November 2016

Day and Date	Time	Item
Wednesday 2 nd	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU meet in the Gatty Hall
Sunday 6 th	12 noon	Baptism Service
Monday 7 th	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Tuesday 8 th	7.30 pm	Time for God (in Church)
Thursday 10 th	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
Saturday 12 th	9.00 am	Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 13 th	10.00 am	Service of Remembrance
Wednesday 16 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm	Baptism Preparation in Church
Saturday 19 th	10.00 am	Ecclesfield in Bloom Coffee Morning
Sunday 20 th	4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
Monday 21 st	7.30 pm	Fabric Team Meeting
Tuesday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Time for God (in Church)

From the Registers

Baptisms

2nd October	William George Jennings
2nd October	Theo Isaac Canavan
2nd October	Mila Grace Sowah

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

Weddings

2nd October	Christopher John Burgon & Nicola June Higgins
13th October	Craig James Oldham & Laura Wilkinson

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

Funerals

22nd September	Edith Anne Stokes	97
12th October	Lily Hancock	99
2nd November	Zofia Britain	

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

Flower Rota November 2016

6th	J. Cooper & R. Nutbrown	20th	D. Banham
13th	P. Leach & O. Robinson	27th	Advent 1 – No Flowers
	Remembrance Sunday		

Mothers' Union

We welcomed Margaret Minns, the Diocesan Social Policy Officer for Mothers' Union for MU, to our meeting. She began by telling us that we still face the problems which faced Mary Sumner our founder when she began the organisation in 1876.

She began with an update on our position now with our involvement at the United Nations and how members from the U.K. and other parts of the world bring issues from their countries to be discussed in papers given to the council. These include gender equality, violence against women and children, rape as an instrument of war, child marriages, education for the girl child and maternal deaths in childbirth. Mary Sumner was a big influence in having the age of marriage raised from 12 years for girls and 14 years for boys to 16 years for both sexes.

At home our Government often consult the staff at headquarters about family issues, violence against women and children, debt relief, child maintenance fees, Sunday Trading, parental maternity leave and flexible working hours for parents. The biggest success has been the Bye-buy Childhood campaign which was aimed at the sexualisation and commercialisation of children. Fourteen recommendations were given to the government aimed at protecting children and many of these have been incorporated into law. These tackled advertising and marketing, age ranges for videos, internet blockage of porn channels and free parental controls on computers.

Advice is still sort from members about unsuitable viewing and marketing for children and families and members are encouraged to report on anything they think may harm children. We may not think we have much influence as individuals but as an organisation we can and our concerns and prayers can be turned into action through our campaigns, research and being articulate. We seldom realise the power we have collectively.

NP



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
in the Diocese of Sheffield
www.sheffieldmu.co.uk Reg Charity No. 1063619



Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union

The Gardening Year – November 2016

The Flower Garden

Where sheltered positions can be given sweet peas may be sown this month, they can be sown in pots in a cold frame and kept under glass until the spring. Chrysanthemums lift them out and bed them in a cold frame or greenhouse. Cut the plants down to about 6 in. and cut off all the green flowering shoots at ground level. Label the stools carefully lift them and wash thoroughly in clean water before bedding in boxes or peat or compost, plant the stools at the same depth as they were growing in the garden keep the compost moist but not wet.

The Shrubbery

Roses and deciduous shrubs should be planted when the leaves are absent make holes wider and deeper spread the roots out when planting. Do not let them hang down into the holes cover with fine soil and give the plants a shake to ensure that the soil particles surround all the roots. Put in a sufficiently strong stake before filling in the soil tread the soil, firm after planting. Tie a label with the name etc., on to the stake. After the first frosts examine newly planted shrubs and press back any weather loosened soil round the stem.

Fruit

Currants and gooseberries should be planted now and should be encouraged by thorough preparation of the soil. They thrive best and give the finest results if grown in rich well drained soil. If not already done old wood should be cut away on black currants leaving stems of one year's growth for next year's fruit.

Vegetables

One important matter in the vegetable garden this month is to collect all fallen leaves. These are useful for making leaf-mould. As much digging should be done if possible during dry weather leaving the surface rough, add lime if you have not done so in the last two years, a good handful per sq. yd. is about right. If you are growing potatoes on your vegetable plot do not lime this ground as lime encourages potato scab.

Colin Williams

RHS Advice - Pruning and training

Pruning and renovation of many deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges can be carried out from now throughout the dormant season. It is easier to see what you are doing when the branches have no leaves. Suitable examples are *Fagus* and *Corylus*. Exceptions are tender plants, and also *Prunus* species (e.g. ornamental cherries, plums and almonds), as these are vulnerable to silver leaf if pruned in the autumn or winter. Evergreens are best left until the spring.

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Miscellaneous observations on life

If it weren't for the last minute, a lot of things wouldn't get done. - *Anon*

The expression 'as right as rain' must have been invented by an Englishman. -
W L Phelps

Experience is a good teacher, but her fees are very high. - *W R Inge*

At 50 everyone has the face he deserves. - *George Orwell*

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair. - *GK Chesterton*

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your
ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. - *Corrie ten Boom*



Ian Smith ATT Anne Smith BA (Hons)

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Coffee Morning

in

St Mary's Church
Ecclesfield

Saturday 3rd December

From 10.00 am - 12.00

Cakes - Raffle - Stalls

Refreshments

Please come and support us!



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	E	E	R	S	
C		U		A		I		C		A		C
I	M	M	O	R	A	L		C	A	I	R	O
T		A		E		S	A	E		S		M
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Z				A	C	C	U	S	E		N	E
E	A	S	T		O		A		O	G	A	M
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P		T		N			R		A		D	E
	C	H	R	Y	S	O	P	R	A	S	E	

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British Institute of
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Eric Eyre National President
1989 - 1990



Saint/s of the Month November

6th Illtud – Patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief.

Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action.

Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest ‘emergency relief appeals’, and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: “I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35)

Certainly the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud’s kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man

25th Catherine of Alexandria – Patron saint of young girls and nurses

Catherine is thought to have been a noble girl who lived in the 4th century. She was persecuted for her Christianity, and despised marriage with the Emperor because she was a ‘bride of Christ’. According to the legend, Catherine was no push-over intellectually, either: she disputed successfully with 50 philosophers who were called in to convince her of the errors of Christianity.

Catherine protested against the persecution of Christians by Maxentius, and then she herself was tortured: broken on a wheel (later called Catherine wheel), but the machine then broke down itself, injuring bystanders. Catherine was then beheaded.

This legend strongly appealed to the Middle Age imagination. Catherine became the patron of young girls, students, philosophers, nurses and craftsmen such as wheelwrights, spinners and millers.

In England 62 churches were dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. ‘Lives’, poems, miracle plays, stained-glass windows, panels and paintings have all been done in Catherine’s honour.

To Autumn - John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Editor: Many people have “analysed” Keats poem but I’m not going to join them. For me autumn is a time of calm as the hustle and bustle of summer fades away and it is also a time of renewal and celebration. Each autumn God provides an abundance of fruits and seeds - some to be sown next spring – many to be stored and eaten during the winter. The poem “To Autumn” was included in Keats's 1820 collection of poetry titled *Lamia, Isabella, the Eve of St. Agnes, and Other Poems*. A little over a year later on the 23rd February 1821 Keats died from tuberculosis in Rome; he never made his autumn years.

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Crossword Puzzle (Solution is on page 21)

Clues Across

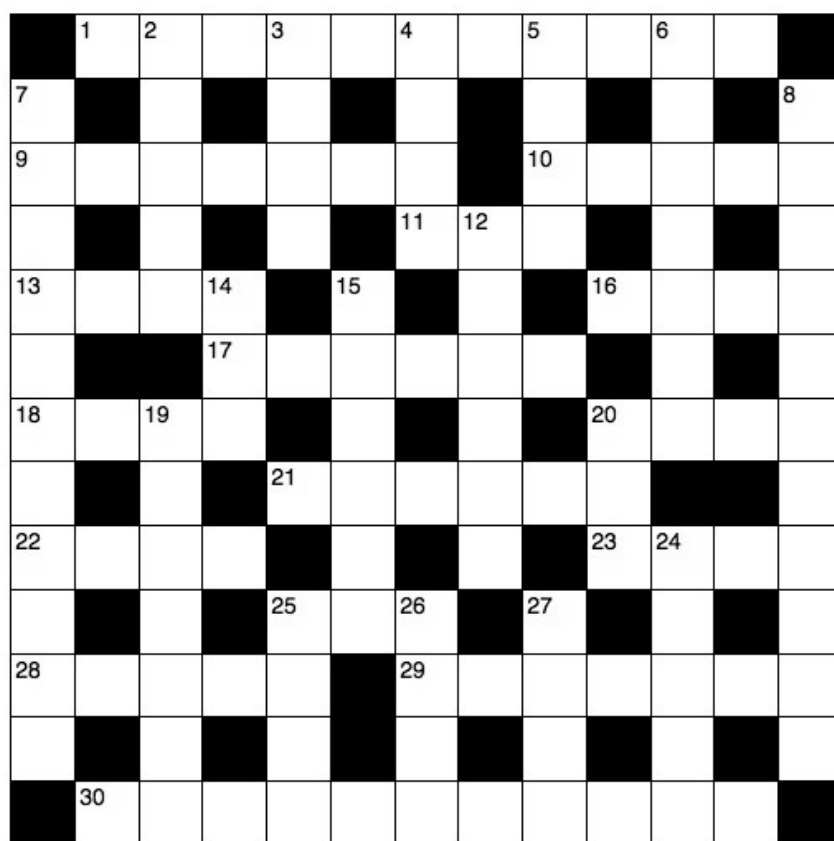
- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Clues Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)

- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
 27 See 18 Across

Solution is on Page 21



☺ Smile ☺

Wanted - A lady was advertising for a travelling companion, and ended with these words: 'Christian wanted, cheerful if possible.'

Light - A small boy was fascinated by the Sanctuary lamp during a rather long sermon. Finally he whispered: 'Mum, when the light changes to green, can we go?'

Help - A minister was asked to give the grace at a parish dinner. 'Thank you Lord, for this food, and we pray for strength to eat it!'

Prayers and Poems Page

Love-links

To lose a loved one
feels to break the heart and being.
All those years ahead, alone, to
face.
A new reality.

And yet the true reality
is that we loved.
We loved each other
and we loved the Lord Jesus –
who lives!
He lives in me
as He lives in the one I love.
And that love goes on,
linking heaven and earth
in life that will never end.
Love-links to comfort and
encourage
as the journey continues
in trust and anticipation...

by Daphne Kitching

Remembrance

In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our
today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the
glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

By Megan Carter

Compassionate Father

You are Sovereign. Your plans and timing are not always easy for us to understand, but we trust you and know that you love us and only want good things for us.

At this time of Remembering, when so many are so sad, thank you for giving your only Son, Jesus, so that if we believe and trust in Him we have the promise of eternal life and re-union with all who loved Him too. We choose to believe and trust, in Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Mothers' Union 16 Days of Activism

This 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Mothers' Union is shining a light on violence against women and girls, with the clear message that it is not ok. We are calling on communities around the world to understand the many different forms of abuse that gender-based violence takes, from controlling behaviour by a partner to rape as a weapon of war.

Join us on 25th November in a 'Global Moment' to raise awareness of and stand in solidarity against gender-based violence. At midday, wherever you are in the world, mark the start of these 16 Days with a lighted candle and a time of prayer or reflection.

Changing culture to end gender-based violence takes all of us working together to spread the message that 'IT IS NOT OK'!

In particular, we encourage families and schools to teach children and young people about building healthy relationships, and to challenge gender stereotypes.

We are also calling on governments and leaders to take actions, to:

- Ensure that national, local and customary law prohibits all forms of violence against women and girls
- Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to justice; and to support services
- Ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted, punished and rehabilitated

In the UK specifically, we are calling on the Government to redress the injustice in the new child maintenance system, for victims of domestic abuse.

We ask that victims be exempt from the 'collect and pay' charges for using the statutory Child Maintenance Service, as they may have no other option to receive or make payments for their children without further risk of abuse or violence. Using a family-based arrangement or Direct Pay could result in ongoing contact with the abuser, placing survivors at further risk.

SH

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

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Secretary – Joe Webster 245 2518
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