

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield

*Jesus*  
IS THE  
*Reason*  
FOR THE  
*Season*

*Merry Christmas*

Church Magazine December 2019 & January 2020

[www.stmarysecclesfield.com](http://www.stmarysecclesfield.com)

Price 60p



# First words

As always December is a busy month at St Mary's. We begin the month and the Church year on **Advent Sunday, 1st December**, with a service of **Advent Carols at 10am**. In the evening, at **6.30pm**, we will have a **Service of Light for Advent**.

On **Tuesday 3rd December** we welcome **Mansel Primary School** into Church at 1.15pm for a visit to look around St Mary's.

On **Saturday 7th December** we have our **Christmas Fayre** in the Gatty Hall, and a **Christmas Tree Festival** in Church.

**Sunday 8th December** is a busy day. After the Eucharist at 10am we have the **last Baptisms of the year at 12 noon** and at **6.30pm** we welcome Bishop Pete for our **Deanery Confirmation service**.

On **Monday 9th December** we welcome **Ecclesfield High School** for their annual **Christmas Concert**. And on **Wednesday 11th December** the **Don Valley Beavers** will be in Church for their **Christmas Carols**.

On **Saturday 14th at 9am** we have the last **Prayer Breakfast** of 2019 and at **12 noon** there is a **wedding in Church**.

On **Sunday 15th at 6pm**, weather permitting there will be **Community Carols round the Tree** (we will be in Church if the weather is wet).

On **Thursday 19th December** we welcome **Ecclesfield Primary School**, Key Stage 2 to Church for their **Carols**.

On **Saturday 21st December at 6pm** there will be the **Service of the Longest Night**.

On **Sunday 22nd December at 4pm** it is our **Christingle Service**.

On **Monday 23rd December at 12 noon** we have our last **wedding** of the year.

On **Christmas Eve**, Tuesday 24th December at **4pm** we welcome the Posada back into Church ready for the **Crib Service**. And at **6.30pm** it is our traditional **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**.

On **Christmas Day** there is an **All Age Eucharist at 10am**.

Please note that there is no Communion Service on Thursday 26th December, and there is no Evening Service on Sunday 29th December.

On **Sunday 5th January** we will be celebrating **Epiphany** and the visit of the wise men at 10am.

On **Monday 6th January at 7.30pm** we have our first **PCC Meeting** of 2020.

On **Wednesday 8th January at 1pm** in the Gatty Hall it is the **Mother's Union AGM**.

Finally, on **Saturday 25th January at 10am** there is **Wedding Preparation** in Church.

God bless,

Tim

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**Front Cover – Jesus Is the Reason for the Season**

*Editor - A university colleague and friend (now sadly departed) who's office windows faced into the atrium at SHU would put up a poster with these words on every year, despite mild objections from the establishment and some colleagues*

**Back Cover – Christmas Fayre Poster**



# Andrew Jones

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# Thought for the Month:

Advent is almost here as I begin to write for this month's magazine. As I look to the month ahead, I see how full my diary is, how many things there are to plan, to prepare for and to do. My worry is that in the busyness and distractions that December always brings I will lose my focus on what it is all about; that I will forget the reason for all the activity.

This can so easily happen to any one of us in December. We spend so much time thinking about the jobs that must be done if we are going to have a 'proper' Christmas with family and friends - the planning of presents and cards and meals and visits; the time and energy spent shopping and preparing.

But, as always, the heart of Christmas is very simple: God coming to us in the smallness and vulnerability of a tiny baby. He was born as a child of the poor, right from His first breath Jesus had nowhere to lay His head. He was so very easy to miss, to ignore; and many people on that first Christmas did miss what was happening; so many did ignore Him.

But if what we believe about Christmas is the truth, if what the Bible tells us about this child is true, then we truly have something worth remembering and celebrating. We have something worth holding on to throughout this hectic month.

In Jesus God is among us; in Jesus we see the true face of God, turned to us not in anger or judgement or disappointment, but in love. In Jesus God is reaching out to the world that He created, the world that He loves with a passion stronger than death.

If I can hold onto this, the heart and soul of Christmas, then I will know why I will be spending so much time and energy this December. The services and special events in St Mary's during December are not just to fill the Church, not to make us feel better or to warm our hearts. They are our response to the amazing love of God. Our focus is on Jesus, on worship, as we respond to the amazing grace of God once again.

And, if we keep in our minds the hope for the world and for all people that the birth of Jesus represents, then we will remember why we are spending so much time and effort preparing those celebrations with the people we love. In the middle of winter we have a reason to celebrate and a reason to hope.

I pray that in all the many distractions this month we will keep our focus on Jesus. I pray that as we sing the carols, wrap the presents and send the cards we will know the joy and the hope of Christmas. I pray that as we gather together we will know that Jesus is among us. I pray that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago will be born in our hearts this Christmas; and that we will be renewed by His presence.

A very happy Christmas and a peaceful New year to you,

God bless,  
Tim



# Ecclesfield Church Playgroup

The group began over 50 years ago when a number of young women known as the 'Young Mums' decided we needed something for the young families.

After a sponsored walk the money raised was enough to start with and the Gatty Hall an ideal venue. Many young mums found friendship there and it was decided a committee would be formed and that someone from the church involved in its organisation.



After a number of years as leaders came and went to train for other jobs or to take up old ones Ann Hackett became leader. She has held that post for over 36 years welcoming many young mums and babies, helping them to make friendships and the children to begin their early steps in their education for life. Ann now feels it is time for her to retire and we acknowledge the wonderful work she has done over the years, keeping ahead of many changes in legislation that have happened.

It was with gratitude that a presentation was made to her in church acknowledging all she has done for the children

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# God and The Arts

*Editor: The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. It is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Rev Michael Burgess.*

## He gave us eyes to see them: Gauguin's Portrait of a Breton Girl at Prayer

During this year we have been exploring the wealth of paintings in the National Gallery in London. Each year the Gallery has exhibitions highlighting the work of one particular artist, and until 26 January there is a major exhibition, 'Gauguin Portraits.' It celebrates in paintings and sculptures the life and work of Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). He is best known for the art he painted when he fled Europe to live in Tahiti in the South Seas. But from 1886 to 1891 he lived in rural Brittany at Pont-Even.

This month's painting is from those years when Gauguin was influenced by folk art and impressed by the simple faith of the Breton peasants. He has captured that faith in this painting of a Breton girl at prayer.

His own catchphrase was 'I shut my eyes in order to see.' The girl has her eyes closed as she offers her prayers, but we sense that the inner eye of her heart is open in trust to God's will for her.



At this time of the year children step into the limelight of church and school life with nativity plays. They invite us to journey with them in that same simplicity and trust to Bethlehem, just as St Francis of Assisi invited the people of Greccio to a cave outside the town in 1223. As they looked into the cave, they saw the animals and the hay, and in the centre, a new-born babe. St Francis talked to them of the simple message of God's love revealed in all humility and openness in this birth of the Christ-Child. He invited the people to respond with those same gifts.

As we look at this painting, we see something of the simplicity and trust called of us, whether young or old. Too often as we get older, we find our lives weighed down by responsibilities and pressures. We find time is swallowed up in the busyness of this season, and somehow we lose that innocence and simplicity of life.

But, pondering the Christmas story and pondering this painting, we can put our hands together and pray for that openness and childlike trust. Fr Faber wrote a hymn with the lines:

*'If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our hearts would find assurance  
in the promise of the Lord.'*



# St James the Least of All

## On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

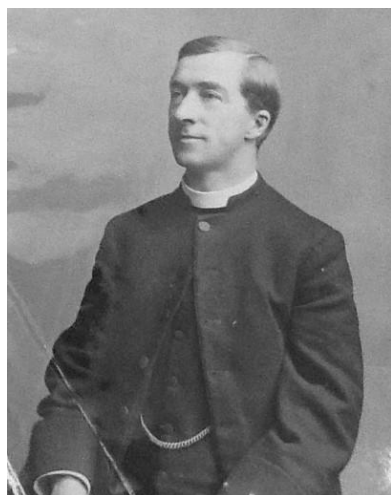
And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



# REVD ARNOLD PAWSON (1866-1942)

Vicar of Ecclesfield - 1921-1936



The earlier article outlined the life of Francis (Frank) Pawson, one-time England footballer and the person who became Vicar of Ecclesfield on the death of Dr. Alfred Gatty. We now look at his half-brother Arnold.

A person local to Sheffield, Arnold went straight to Theological College from school, and his first appointment was as Curate in Chesterfield where he met his wife, Susanna Felkin Chandler, when she was sent to him for Confirmation preparation. Susanna's parents owned a large grocery shop in Chesterfield. Arnold served as Rector of Thorpe, in Dovedale, Derbyshire, from 1898 to 1907. He then moved to the Parish of St James in Scarborough where he served for 14 years. There, in 1914, his house was damaged when the German Battlecruisers bombarded the town. Also in 1914, Arnold lost his wife, Susanna, two years after the birth of their ninth child.

Following the funeral of his brother Frank at Ecclesfield, a service in which Arnold took part, he was chosen to be the new Vicar of Ecclesfield. 55 year old Arnold Pawson arrived in October 1921 to take up his appointment and was accompanied by his eight children (Bob had died as a child), Mrs Brindley as cook/housekeeper and her husband as gardener/handyman. In Ecclesfield, the house and family were managed by his eldest daughter Alice while his second daughter, Dinah, worked in the Parish and ran the Guide Troop (she is also believed to have served as local District Guide Commissioner).

These two daughters both married clergymen. Dinah married one of the curates at Ecclesfield and her husband served in World War Two as an RAF Chaplain and when in Burma at the siege of Imphal was one of the only three chaplains to be issued with a firearm with which to defend himself. Two of Arnold's sons followed their father into the Church. Sam became Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, and Dick won the Hulsan Prize at Cambridge and became an eminent Theologian. He served as Vice Principal of the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield and as Principal of the Theological Colleges in Rosettenville, South Africa (where Archbishop Tutu was one of his students) and in Barbados.

Dinah's son, Robin Bursell, only visited Ecclesfield once in 1942 where he remembers: -

- The long red hair of the young mother (daughter of Mr Addy from the Common who had been one of Dinah's guiders) fanned out on her pillow
- Mother's utter horror when she realised that the pond leading into the paddock was a running sewer
- The garden party on the vicarage lawn. Here, Dinah was asked to judge a Pretty Ankle competition with a local councillor and a canvas sheet had been erected on poles with the bottom off the ground, for the girls to stand behind with only their feet showing. He remembers clearly the councillor telling his Mother that they must not choose a girl wearing stockings as that would not be fair!

Of Arnold's fifteen grandchildren, two boys also became priests: Rupert Bursell gained a Doctorate in Canon Law and became the first priest to be appointed a High Court Judge since Cardinal Wolsey! He has served as Chancellor and Vicar General of the Dioceses of St Albans, Durham, Bath and Wells, and Oxford.

Arnold was an erudite and gentle man who loved his family, his parish and the fine arts. He left a considerable collection of paintings. While at Ecclesfield, he once advertised for a curate and received over 50 applications!



He retired to Weston-Super-Mare, but was staying with his doctor son, Jack, when he died in 1942 at the age of 76: due to the stringent petrol rationing of the time, the service and burial took place locally rather than with his wife and infant son in the family grave in Scarborough.

ACR

*With thanks to Robin Bursell.*

*Thomas Pyke was appointed Vicar in 1936 and served through the Second World War until 1946 when he was succeeded by Cuthbert Hayes, Vicar for 18 years who is still remembered by some of the senior members the village.*

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# Will You Remember Them – North Korea

Population: 25,611,000  
Christians: 300,000 (1.2% of population)  
Main Religion: Atheism  
Government: Communist Dictatorship

## **Never-ending pressure and violence**

The primary driver of Christian persecution in North Korea is the state. For three generations, everything in the country has focused on idolizing the leading Kim family. Christians are seen as hostile elements in society that have to be eradicated. There was hope that new diplomatic efforts in 2018—including the 2018 Winter Olympics—would mean a lessening of pressure and violence against Christians, but so far that has not been the case. Kim Jong Un has maintained his tight control over the populace, and dissent or worshiping anything else is not tolerated.

## **How Christians are suffering**

If Christians are discovered, not only are they deported to labour camps as political criminals or even killed on the spot, their families will share their fate as well. Christians do not even have the slightest space in society, on the contrary, they are publicly warned against. Meeting other Christians in order to worship is almost impossible and if some believers dare to, it has to be done in utmost secrecy. The churches shown to visitors in Pyongyang serve mere propaganda purposes.

## **Examples**

Due to the extremely difficult security situation, it is very difficult to share examples. Pastor Dong-cheol Kim (arrested in 2015) and two Korean-American Christian lecturers at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), Tony Kim and Hak-song Kim (arrested in April and May 2017 respectively) were all accused of espionage but released ahead of the US-North Korean summit in June 2018. In a change of hiring policy, PUST is now reportedly looking for non-American staff, a logical consequence from the travel ban for US citizens.

## **Pray for North Korea**

- Pray that new diplomatic efforts will pay dividends and will lead to a softening of the North Korean government toward its people.
- The situation for Christians is vulnerable and precarious. They face persecution from state authorities and their non-Christian family, friends and neighbours. Pray for their protection.
- Pray for strength and courage for Christians who suffer in prisons, labour camps and remote areas.
- Pray that God will prepare the underground church in North Korea to be a light for the country—and that they will be ready to share the gospel freely someday soon.



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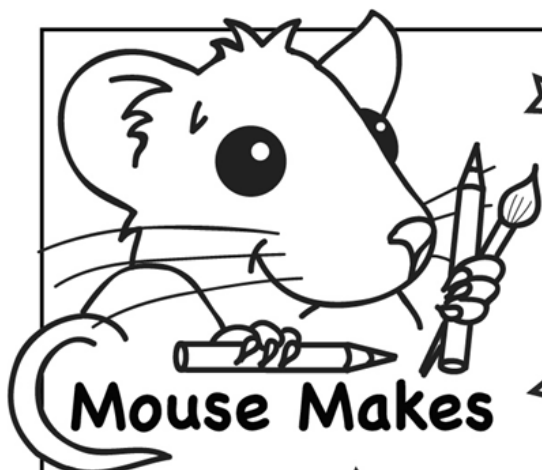
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**Mouse Makes**

Where was  
Mary's baby born?  
Why were Joseph  
and Mary there?

**Read Luke 2 :1-6**

Where did  
Mary lay  
her baby  
and why?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:7*



**Good news!**

What did  
Mary dress  
her baby in?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:6*



Why were  
the  
shepherds  
afraid?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:8*



**Glory to God**



**A Saviour is born**

What did the angel  
tell Joseph to name  
Mary's baby and why?

**Read Matthew 1:21**

What good  
news did  
the angel tell?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:10-11*



What did the  
shepherds  
do after they  
had seen  
the baby?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:16*



Who  
appeared  
praising God  
and what did  
they say?

**Read**  
*Luke 2:13-14*



*Colour a  
star each  
day until  
Christmas*



# Prayer for the Month

Instead of a prayer for this month I have chosen a verse of Scripture which will be a focus for our prayers throughout 2020:

***Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*** Jeremiah 29:11

The verse is taken from a letter written by the prophet Jeremiah in the sixth century before the birth of Jesus. He wrote to the people of Judea who had been taken by army of Nebuchadnezzar to exile in Babylon.

The letter begins by making the exiles face reality: they are in exile and they will remain in exile. But God is with them and even though they themselves will never see their homeland again, God has a plan and a purpose for them. They have a hopeful future, and so does the nation of Judea. God will bring their descendants back to the land from which they have been taken.

Although Christians in Britain today are not exiles it is hard to contemplate the future of the Church in this land with hope. Like those Judean exiles the future fills us with dread and we think that the best times were in the past.

As we read Jeremiah, we see that with God no situation is hopeless, for God is a God of new life, a God of resurrection, and therefore with God there is always hope.

I believe that God has a plan and purpose for the Church of Christ in Western Europe. And I believe that St Mary's will be part of that purpose.

Can I encourage you in your prayers in 2020, to ask God to show us His vision for our Church, to show us His plan and purpose for us. As we look to the future we may feel apprehensive, we may worry about who will continue to worship after us.

Most of us realise that we will have to make changes in how we fulfil our calling as Christ's Church. We know that if we simply keep on doing what we have always done, then we will get the same results.

In 2020 I want to encourage every one of us to pray for St Mary's: to pray that we will grow in number; that we will grow in our knowledge of God; that we will grow in deeper fellowship, and, most importantly that we will grow in vision.

We are not looking for our own good ideas, we are not seeking to follow the latest trendy gimmick. Instead we are asking God to reveal to us His plans for St Mary's in the coming years.

We know that if God is for us then nothing and no one can stand against us. We know that if God is leading is then our future is filled with hope.

I pray that the future of St Mary's will eclipse the greatest days of its past as we faithfully seek God's vision and together follow God's call.

May God richly bless you and all those that you love in the coming year.



# St Mary's – Regular 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

## **Baptism Services - Monthly**

Times vary – please contact us for details

## **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

# St Mary's - Activities & Groups

## **Church Office Opening times**

Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

## **Coffee Shop**

Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

## **Bell Ringers**

Tuesday 7.30 pm Bell ringing practice

Friday 7.30 pm Silent Bell ringing practice

## **Choir Practice**

Currently suspended

## **Music Group Practice**

Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church



# Church Diary Items to Note - December 2019 – January 2020

<b>December 2019</b>		<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
Monday	2nd	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
Tuesday	3rd	1:15pm	Mansel Primary Y1 in Church
Thursday	5th	11:00am	Visiting Bellringers
Saturday	7th	9:30am	Christmas Fayre Church and Gatty
Sunday	8th	12:00pm	Baptism Service
Sunday	8th	6:30pm	Deanery Confirmation
Wednesday	11th	9:00am	Rick Stordy Chapeltown Lound Infants
Wednesday	11th	1.45pm	Funeral
Wednesday	11th	6:30pm	Beavers Carol Service in Church
Thursday	12th	1:3 pm	Funeral in Church
Saturday	14th	9:00am	Prayer Breakfast
Saturday	14th	12:00pm	Wedding
Sunday	15th	6:00pm	Community Carols round the Tree
Thursday	19th	1:3 pm	Ecclesfield Primary School Christmas Carols in Church
Sunday	22nd	4:00pm	Christingle Service
Monday	23rd	12:00pm	Wedding
Tuesday	24th	4:00pm	Crib Service
Tuesday	24th	6:30pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday	25th	10:00am	Christmas Family Communion
<b>January 2020</b>			
Monday	6th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
Saturday	11th	9:00am	Prayer Breakfast
Monday	20th	7:30pm	Fabric Team Meeting
Saturday	25th	10:00am	Wedding Preparation Morning
Sunday	26th	5:00pm	Youth Fellowship
Sunday	26th	6:30pm	Prayer and Praise
Monday	27th	7:30pm	Baptism Preparation

## From the Registers

### Funerals

11 <sup>th</sup> November	Mary Lily Pack	94
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Michelle King	34
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Aileen Jean Wadsworth	84

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

### Flower Rota December 2019

1st	Advent 1 - No Flowers
8th	Advent 2 - No Flowers
15th	Advent 3 - No Flowers
22nd	(Advent 4) Christmas Flowers
29th	Vacant



# God in the Sciences

## **The Incarnation: fearfully and wonderfully made**

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:15-16*

You began life as a single cell. For a few hours you were a miniscule but highly complex blob of jelly, until it began to divide: two cells, four, eight, sixteen, a ball, a hollow ball, and then something more recognisably like a living organism. You were still tiny, but developing a nervous system, a head, a body, arms and legs.

Until recently I hadn't thought much about Jesus being an embryo. Somehow, I find that thought even more shocking than His birth. How could God, who made the universe, have become something so completely and utterly vulnerable? Maybe in the past, when the development of a child happened in 'secret', it was possible just to let that part of the Christmas story go untold.

Today, when we see images of a developing child, or even embryos outside the womb, it is harder to ignore the process of Jesus developing into a baby. The incarnation meant that God's Son went through all the stages in the diagram in my developmental biology textbook: 'zygote', 'morula', 'blastocyst', implantation, and so on.

Jesus was there in the beginning, and all life owes its existence to Him. But instead of remaining aloof, He chose to become one of us. The Son of God shared the same kind of DNA as every other organism on the planet. He knows what it feels like to have a body, to feel hungry and thirsty, pain and pleasure, dark and light.

In Psalm 139, the writer is meditating on God's intimate knowledge of Him, which began when He was an embryo. There is nothing God doesn't know about Him, and even darkness cannot obscure Him from God's sight. The incarnation means that God's intimacy with us now extends even further. He became one of us, lived alongside us, and shared our very fragile material nature.

The transcendent God is also immanent, longing for us to relate to Him as Father. He became as fragile as we are so He could rescue us from the messes we so often find ourselves in. With His help, we can remember what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Reproduced by permission from Merry Christmas Everyone: A festive feast of stories, poems and reflection, Edited by Wendy H. Jones, Amy Robinson & Jane Clamp (Association of Christian Writers, 2018)*





**Join us at our Christingle**

**Share the light with the Christingles**

We would love for you, your friends and your family to join us at our Christingle celebration so we can support more vulnerable children.

**Sunday 22nd December at 4pm**

**Here at St Mary's - Ecclesfield**



[christingle.org](http://christingle.org)

Charity Registration No. 221124



XTC133c/0919



# The Gardening Year – December 2019

Little can be done in December and January apart from tidying up the garden and preparing it for next year.

**Nuts** – Hazel is the general name given in this country to trees of the genus *Corylus*, which includes cobnuts and filberts. Somewhat confusingly it is cobnuts that are most generally known as hazels, while one variety of filberts is called a Kentish cob. However, this helps to emphasise the fact that the only difference between them are small variations in the shape and size of the nuts and slight subtleties of flavour. Even when grown as a bush a hazel occupies a good deal of space; but if you have a large garden it is well worth planting one for both its decorative value in spring, when the branches are covered with long pale yellow catkins and for the protein rich nuts that ripen in September and October. Unfortunately, squirrels are just as aware as humans that the nuts are excellent for winter storage.

Nut lovers sometimes wonder whether they can hope to harvest almonds from their ornamental prunus trees. However, in most years either frost damages the blossom or cool weather in summer prevents formation of sweet edible nuts. When, in a good year some edible nuts can be harvested this should be regarded as a bonus. Almonds are not worth planting as part of a growing food programme. The same is true of walnuts, reason being the length of time before you can hope to harvest your first crop, - fully 15-years – and the massive size of the mature tree. However, if you take over a property with an established walnut tree you will have little to do beyond picking any nuts that escape the squirrels.

**Pests and Diseases** – Hazelnuts are subject to attack by nut weevil, and damage caused by a number of caterpillars, including those of the winter moth. Honey fungus is the principal disease. Harvesting and Storing – pick the nuts when they have turned brown. Put them in a warm place for a few days to dry out, then store them in containers in a cool place. Finally, I would like to wish all at St. Mary's and all your readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Colin Williams*

## Eat the Seasons – December/January – A season for celebration foods

**Vegetables** - Beetroot, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Horseradish, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Truffles (Black), Truffles (White), Turnips,

**Fruit** - Apples, Clementines, Blood Oranges, Lemons, Cranberries, Passion Fruit, Pears, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Satsumas, Tangerines

**Herbs & Nuts** - Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Walnuts

**Meat** – Duck, Goose, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Turkey, Venison

**Fish** - Clams, Cod, Coley, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Plaice, Red Mullet, Scallops (Queen), Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Skate, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - [www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk)



# St Mary's School, Bangalore

In 2002 at the invitation of Sr Thankamma Varky the late Pam Prior and I visited Bangalore, India. We were going for one visit but ended up helping to raise money to build a school for the poorest children and returned many times until 2015. The school helped the economics of the families and the mothers as well as the children, who began to look healthier and more confident. We had informed Sr Thankamma before Pam became ill that we could no longer help with the fundraising but continued to keep in touch with her.

Sadly, Sr Thankamma died of a heart attack at the school the month after Pam had died. I was reluctant to contact the school as I was worried about the state of the School without Sr at the helm, but I need not have been.

Mr George Cyciac, Sr's brother who lives in Dubai, had taken over. I have not met him but have now had several telephone conversations with him. In February this year I returned the school and had a wonderful greeting from the staff and was very surprised that the school had again been improved and developed.

Recently Mr George informed me that Kishan one of the first children had been to university and gained a degree in engineering, another boy is at medical school, and one of the first girls has also gained a university degree. I was overcome by this information and so pleased that Pam and I with the help of God had helped in a small way with these achievements.

Thank you to everyone who helped us.

If anyone has not heard our story and would like to please contact me

*Heather Johnson*

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Come along and sing your favourite carols

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7.00pm in the Gatty Hall, Ecclesfield

with guests

**Deepcar Brass Band**

and

**"Flutes Galore"**

**Tickets: £6.00**

Please ring 07714 760370

Or e-mail : [ecclesfieldhr@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldhr@gmail.com)

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

L	A	M	E		O	B	T	A	I	N	E	D
O		A			R		C		E		A	
O	M	I	T		M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T
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B	U	R	D	E	N	S	O	M	E			
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C	R	A	F	T	Y		P	L	E	A	S	E
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# ERIC EYRE

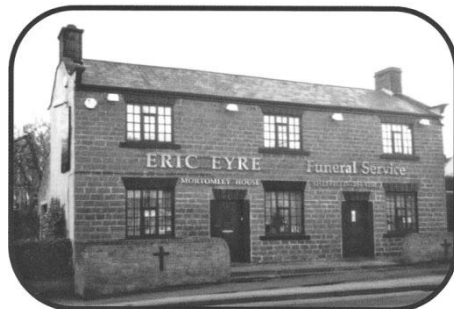
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# The history of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25<sup>th</sup> March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25<sup>th</sup> December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25<sup>th</sup> December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of ‘misrule’ – drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England’s Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January) to Christmas Day.

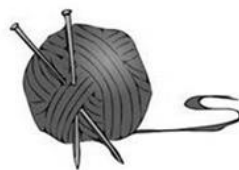
By the 1820s, there was a sense that the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26<sup>th</sup> December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect ‘boxes’ of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop’s robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.





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## Regular Activities



### Monday

Knit & Natter — 2:30pm onwards

Free Tech - flexible drop in technology workshop 1—4pm

Readers Group - 2nd Monday of the month 5—6pm

### Tuesday

Tai-Chi 11:15—12:15pm

### Wednesday

Knit & Natter 1pm onwards

Creative Writing 1st Wednesday of the month 6—8pm

Ecclesfield Village History Group last Wednesday  
of the month 3—5pm

### Friday

Little Bear Club [0 to 4 years] 10—11:30 am



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# Yorke Salon

Ladies and Gents Hair Salon

Monday	8:30am to 11am	Thursday	9am to 12am -- 1pm to 5pm Nicole
Tuesday	Closed	Friday	9am to 12am -- 1pm to 6pm Nicole
Wednesday	9am to 12am	Saturday	8:30am to 12am

315 High Street Ecclesfield S35 9NB

Salon Telephone: 0114 246 7762



## Coffee Shop at St Mary's Church



*Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm*

*Luscious Cakes, Tea / Coffee*

*All Welcome – Free Internet Wi-Fi*

*Volunteers Welcome, Contact Stephanie Hartshorne 2459435*



*We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

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*"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play  
time – I can never find a tea-towel!"*



# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

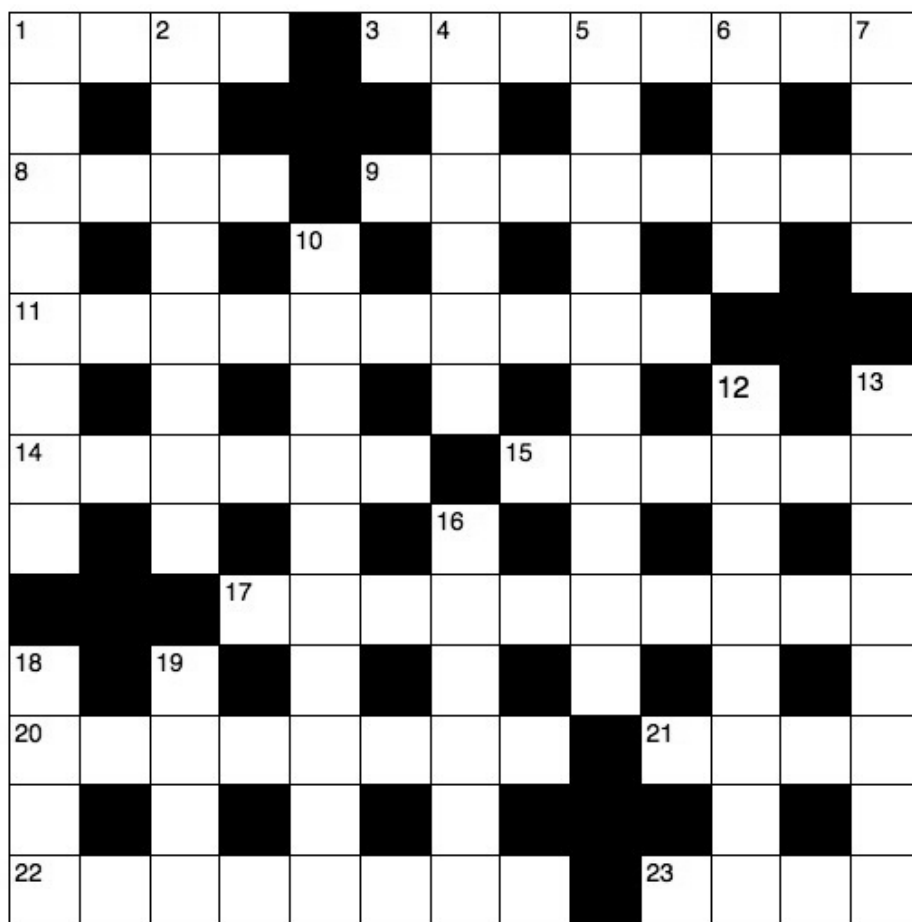
- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

## Clues Down

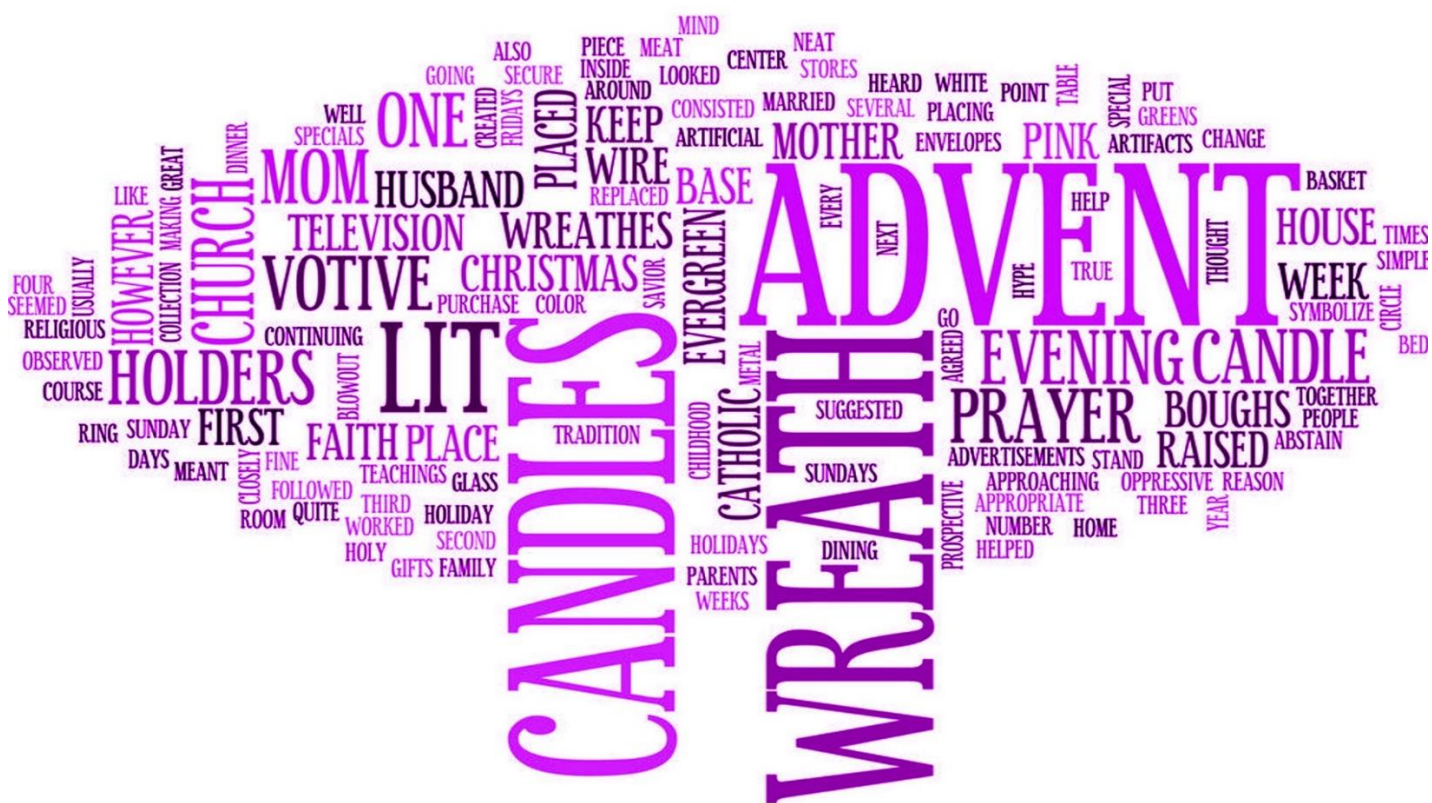
- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)



Solution is on Page 20



## A Word Cloud for the season of Advent





# Prayers and Poems Page

## A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

*by Daphne Kitching*

### Who Knew?

Who saw the man and pregnant girl  
Pressing through the crowded street  
Struggling through the human swirl  
On tired legs and aching feet?  
Who knew?

Who heard her cries, in labour's pain  
Deep within a battered shed?  
Who cared for their impoverished shame  
Who thought about her grassy bed?  
Who knew?

Who, listening to an infant's cries  
Hearing a birth, they thought it strange?  
Expressed an int'rest, or surprise?  
Who recognised that awesome change?  
Who knew?

Who saw the shepherds rush along  
Through sleeping streets at dead of night?  
Who heard the angels' glorious song?  
Or saw the star that shone so bright?  
Who knew?

Who, fighting through the Christmas throngs  
Or, settling down to watch TV  
Eats Christmas food, sings Christmas songs  
Who can the coming Saviour see?  
Who knows?

*By Nigel Beeton*

### When God was born

He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him – John 1:11

God appeared one night; the world slept on.  
Infant flesh disguised the Holy One,  
announced by angels singing in the sky,  
'Peace on earth and praise to God on high'  
but who turned up?

Shepherds came, star-gazers from the east,  
outcasts, prophets, sinners, lost and least.  
Kings and lawyers saw Him as a threat,  
Creator, Saviour, Prince of Peace and yet  
persecuted, made a refugee,  
condemned to death from birth and forced to flee.

Wonder at the welcome Christ extends:  
He heals, forgives, restores, makes us His friends.  
As we recall and celebrate His birth  
how are we to live His life on earth?

*By Helen Brocklehurst*

### The Christmas Caterpillar

Sometimes, upon a Christmas day  
I wonder if there's any way  
That Christmas might be quite a treat  
For those who have a few more feet!

I really love my Christmas socks  
That fill, each year, my Christmas box  
O Santa, festive stocking filler,  
I wish I were a caterpillar!

*By Nigel Beeton*



# The Churchyard - Issue 11

Compiling an index of names from the gravestones has revealed the interesting fact that the burials are of the old parish and beyond and by no means confined to the village of Ecclesfield. It was expected that the old village names would have accounted for at least half but that is not so. On the 1,159 gravestones there are no less than 535 different surnames.

A large number appear on only one gravestone suggesting outsiders who have lived a short time in the parish and then moved on. Of course, a number of single occurrences are due to female members of local families marrying people from outside the area and later being buried in the family grave.

As the purpose of the index is to assist in locating family graves, infants under 5 years have been omitted. When death in childhood was so prevalent this omission accounts for a large number. Even so there are 3,447 names in the index ranging in date from 1600 to the present day. The method used was to list the surnames in alphabetical order with the Christian names arranged in date order, giving also the ages and stone numbers. Given the names and approximate date of death the stone can now be found within minutes.

The order of families with the largest number of burials is: - Greaves 71, Smith 66, Hobson 49, Hague 48, Parkin 45, Johnson 40, Lockwood and Wood 39, Ellis and Turner 38, Nicholson and Swift 35, Loxley 34, Walker 33, Folding 32, Shaw 31, Machen and Unwin 29, Dawson' 28, Green 27, Taylor and Kirk 25, Denton and Vickers 23, Tingle, Hawksley and Jepson 22, and Parker 20.

It must be remembered that the stones only account for a small proportion of the burials at Ecclesfield. Prior to 1600 it was not usual to have engraved gravestones in churchyards, and even after that date many people would be unable to pay for a stone. Also, some of the wealthier people were buried within the, Church, and during the last century the new cemetery on the opposite side of the Priory Road was opened.

In the 300 years between 1560 and 1860 the registers show that there were 21,937 burials, when all, except the relatively small number who were buried in the Church, would be in the churchyard. The Act of Parliament of 1858, forbidding burial in ground that had previously been used for burial, stopped further extensive use of the yard.

F. S. Hague



## Contact Numbers for Local Groups ☎

### Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm  
Leader - Debbie  
Tel: 07860 471793

### 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: Robert 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Church Hall at 7:30 pm  
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 07824 112584  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk)

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some  
Sundays and weekdays.  
Please contact Steve Fletcher if you wish  
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e-mail – [fletcher177@hotmail.com](mailto:fletcher177@hotmail.com)  
[www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk](http://www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk)

If you would like your local group  
advertised, please contact:  
Mrs P Blackburn ☎ 0114 246 8453





E-mail: [tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org)

Ann Hackett	246 7159
Sue Harland	245 0006

Sue Harland 245 0006

Tom Proctor 246 0373

Michael Waldron 246 3091

Pat Clarke	257 7191
Stephanie Dale	245 2392

Stephanie Dale 245 2392

Pat Wood	246 5086
----------	----------

Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm 245 0106

Currently Suspended

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

1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm

Contact: Stephanie Hartshorne 245 9435

Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron 245 5492

Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Phil Hirst 286 2766

Contact us on: 0780 307 8223

**Weddings:** Contact: Beyd Tim Gill 257 0002

“ Or email: *tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org*

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**Magazine e-mail** *magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com*





# Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**11am to 2.30pm**  
**In The Gatty Hall**

**Admission Adults £1**  
(Children under 16 free)

**A wide range of Stalls will be offering: - Crafts,  
Cakes, Preserves & Assorted Gifts  
Raffle and Tombola**

**Refreshments available in the Hall**

**Stroll across to our beautiful church of St Mary's  
and soak in the Christmas atmosphere**



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