

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine October 2019

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First words

Autumn is here and we are in October, a very busy month at St Mary's. Please keep all these events in your prayers.

The **PCC** will meet on **Mon 7th Oct at 7.30pm**. If you have any business for the PCC please pass it on to Tim or one of the wardens.

The **Prayer Course** continues in Church at **7.30pm on Wednesday 9th, 16th and 23rd**. Please note that we will be having a break for half-term on the 30th.

Prayer is one of the most important things that we do as a Church, and meeting together to pray for our Church and for our world should be a priority. The **Prayer Breakfast** will be on **Sat 12th Oct at 9.30am**.

There is only one **wedding** in October - on **Saturday 12th at 3pm**.

On **Friday 11th October at 6pm** we have our **Harvest Supper** at the Gatty Hall (Tickets available) followed by the service of **Harvest Thanksgiving** on **Sunday 13th October at 10am**.

The **Mission & Discipleship Committee** will meet next on **Monday 14th October at 7.30pm** in Church.

On **Saturday 19th October at 10am** there will be a **coffee morning** in Church in aid of the **Children's Society**.

Baptism Preparation will be on **Monday 21st October at 7.30pm** in Church. Please pray for all the families that we meet through this important ministry.

We have two school visits in October. On **Wednesday 23rd October Montenev Primary School** will visit at **9.45am**, and on **Thursday 24th October at 1.15pm Ecclesfield Primary School** will visit for their **Harvest Service**.

Finally, on the last Sunday of the month, **Sunday 27th October**, the **Youth Fellowship** will meet at **5pm** and at **6.30pm** it will be our monthly **Prayer & Praise Service**.

Tim

Front Cover – Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - Cathedral of the Living Pillar in the historic town of Mtskheta, Georgia. A masterpiece of the Early Middle Ages, the present structure was completed in 1029 by the medieval Georgian architect Arsukidze, although the site itself dates to the early fourth century. Svetitskhoveli is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svetitskhoveli_Cathedral

Back Cover – Duo Piccolo e Grande Poster

Andrew Jones

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Thought for the Month

October is traditionally the month when Churches celebrate Harvest. It is a time of thanksgiving and celebration of God's creation. Harvest is not just a Christian celebration. It marks a change in season; it reminds us that we are part of the natural world. It is a good time to invite neighbours or family members to Church.

Harvest reminds us that we are connected to so many people that we will never see for the food on our tables: agricultural workers, people who process and transport our food, and those who work on shops and supermarkets. we depend on one another and it is good to remember and celebrate this.

Christian Harvest celebrations also focus on the 'harvest' of our lives. It has been said that the two most important days in a person's life are the day on which they are born and the day when they discover why they were born.

God has made each one of us for a reason, for a purpose. We each have a place in God's plan for the creation. We each have a work or works to do. Our work is our calling: it is the place where we follow Jesus from Monday to Friday. My prayer is that the light of Jesus will shine in us and through us into the lives that we touch throughout the week: our families and friends, our colleagues or fellow volunteers, our neighbours.

Part of the 'harvest' of each of our lives is that we bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5). Whatever our calling in life, whatever our work, whatever season of life we are in, we should all be growing in the Spirit's fruit. It is an image of what a human life should look like.

Jesus spoke to the disciples about the harvest of their lives as they travelled from the Upper room to Gethsemane on the night of Maundy Thursday. He called them to be fruitful and told them that, as branches in the True Vine, Jesus Himself, they will only bring forth a harvest if they remain in the Vine.

I hope that many people will be in Church on Sunday 13th October when we celebrate Harvest, and when we remember that we are also God's seed and take time to think about the Harvest of our lives.

God bless you,
Tim.

With Halloween in mind ...

If you don't believe in the devil's existence, just try resisting him for a while. *Charles G Finney*

Satan does not work haphazardly but attacks systematically. *Thomas Cosmades*

Satan is not fighting churches; he is joining them. He does more harm by sowing tares than by pulling up wheat. He accomplishes more by imitation than by outright opposition. *Vance Havner*

Greaves Road Lunch Club Needs You

We are in need of someone to take over as Organizer and Treasurer as I am retiring at the end of the year.

We meet Monday's at 12.00pm at Greaves Road, Community Centre.

The membership consists of 26 aged between 70 and 94.

For further information please contact Alwyne Hill. Tele: 0114 246 9154

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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: ‘A Basket of Roses’ by Fantin-Latour

Thomas Moore wrote a haunting, melancholy song called ‘The Last Rose of Summer.’ It is about love and friendships passing as the blossom wilts and summer turns to autumn. Perhaps we know that feeling as we see the leaves falling and the nights drawing in. But autumn is also the season of harvest celebrations when we rejoice in the goodness of Creation. The last rose of summer may die, but there is still much for which to give thanks to God.



We sense that in the bountiful array of roses that is this month’s painting in the National Gallery. Fantin-Latour, a French artist who died in 1904, was famous for the beauty and realism of his paintings of flowers. Here in ‘A Basket of Roses’ of 1890, the flowers tumble onto the table, a rich gathering of white, cream, apricot and pink blossom.

Roses are traditionally signs of love, and that is at the heart of Thomas Moore’s song. White roses stand for the purity of love, red for its sorrow, and gold for its glory. Other poets may come to mind as we think of roses: the author of the Song of Solomon or Robert Burns. This painting has its own poetry. The roses have been brought into a Victorian drawing room, but their perfume and beauty call us back into the garden where they grew in all their magnificence and splendour.

Each harvest we gather flowers, fruits and vegetables from our gardens and fields to proclaim the goodness and generosity of God. In the same century as the artist Fantin-Latour, Fr Faber wrote over 150 hymns praising the God of creation and the God of our salvation. One hymn has the verse:

‘How wonderful creation is,
The work that Thou didst bless;
And, oh! what then must Thou be like,
Eternal loveliness!’

That is our theme as we ponder these roses and think of the Harvest Thanksgivings we shall offer in church this autumn.

St James the Least of All

On what to do when some of the PCC ‘goes green’

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Our Lord said that we will always have some poor with us; were He to have been speaking to the clergy that day, I suspect He may well have said that we will always have some awkward parishioners with us.

My cross at present is Mr and Mrs Wartleby, our resident ‘greens’, who have adopted ecological attitudes with evangelical fervour.

They do not possess a car and travel everywhere on bicycles, have installed a wind turbine, knit their own muesli and I suspect use the village stream for washing. I can picture Mrs W bashing her husband’s shirts on stones on the riverbank while singing a native African folksong. Everything they wear is home-made; one has a beard and smokes a pipe – possibly Mrs Wartleby.

Their helpful suggestions for church life have been legion: the organ uses electricity unnecessarily and should be replaced by a piano; the Rectory should be sold and the money given away while I board with parishioners on monthly rotation; we should only use home-brewed alcoholic drinks at social functions – clearly they have yet to sample Colonel Tewksbury’s elderberry wine, which our ladies have discovered is ideal for cleaning the brass in church.

Unfortunately, I made a deeply regrettable mistake last month in not cancelling our church council meeting when I was away at my annual college re-union. In my absence the Wartlebys seized the opportunity. The parish of St James the Least of All is now a deep green, ecologically committed, nuclear-free zone and I am to report back to the next meeting about what steps we will take to save the planet.

I may have made one error of judgement, but I will not make another. My list of suggestions is now complete:

1. To save paper, no minutes of meetings will be printed; I will simply tell people at the subsequent meeting what was decided at the previous one.
2. To save electricity, no lights will be used at Evensong (the Wartlebys attend Evensong), although parishioners may bring their own candles – which must first be checked by our health and safety committee (two can play at their game).
3. To economise on fuel, the church heating will only be turned on when the temperature reaches minus five degrees.

Continues over page

On what to do when some of the PCC ‘goes green’ - continued

4. To reduce the use of unnecessary electronic equipment, the Rectory telephone will be disconnected.

5. A monthly relocation of the Rector will be too disruptive, so I will stay at each house for one year at a time; my first place of residence will be with the Wartlebys.

I anticipate that the original resolution will be overturned at the next PCC meeting – most probably by the Wartlebys.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Mothers Union meeting 4th September 2019

Stephanie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for all the items which they brought for the “Refuge” unfortunately due to matters beyond their control the speakers from the refuge could not attend.

Jo took the service and ended with Mary Sumner’s Prayer.

We celebrated Jenny Coopers 80th birthday with a drink and cake. Heather Johnson told us she had been contacted by the head of St Mary’s School Bangalore and that all the children who had been to the school were doing very well. Many of us remember how the school had progressed from a shack in the slums to the present three-story building and how things had improved for the children with teaching a meal and clean water.

We had a lovely time talking to each other after the Summer break and we also said goodbye to our youngest member Megan Cooper as she takes up her studies at Lincoln University.

Warning

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her father donning his dinner jacket, she objected. “Oh Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit.” Bemused, her father asked why not. The little girl explained: “Because you know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.”

The Black Bull

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Will You Remember Them – Iran

A Christian woman started a prison sentence in Iran on 31 August for “propaganda” against the government after earlier refusing pressure from judges to renounce her faith.

Fatemeh Bakhteri, a convert from Islam, has started a one-year prison sentence in Iran after her Christian activities led to her being convicted of "propaganda" against the government

In an initial appeal hearing in January 2019, Fatemeh, also known as Ailar, was pressured by the two judges to renounce her faith, but she refused to do so. In May 2019, her appeal was then rejected. She was finally summoned to start her jail term at Evin Prison in Tehran on 31 August. The prison is notorious for prolonged interrogations and the abusive treatment of inmates.



Fatemeh was also banned for two years from engaging in any social activity with more than two people.

She had been appearing in court with a fellow Christian convert from Islam, Saheb Fadaie, who was convicted of “acting against national security” and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and two years in exile in Hamedan, a city and province about 160 miles west of the capital Tehran. Saheb, who also refused to renounce his faith, is already serving a ten-year prison sentence for other Christian activities.

Editor

Coming Soon - Duo Piccolo e Grande

Musical treasures from the Italian baroque come to St. Mary’s on November 9th in the form of Duo Piccolo e Grande. The Lincoln and Nottingham-based professional musicians present a programme of rarely heard works on equally rare instruments. Enzo Puzzovio plays mandolino, a precise replica of the ivory and ebony 1752 original in the V&A museum. His antique hurdy-gurdy adds to an already interesting programme and all the music is accompanied by Stewart McCoy on the theorbo.

The duo was formed in 2012 and their concerts take them nationwide as well as the International Lute Festival in Füssen, Germany. They’ll be playing music by well-known composers such as Vivaldi and Scarlatti, but the duo will add rediscovered works that have lain un-played since the 18th century.

The concert begins at 7.30pm. Admission is free and there will be an interval for refreshments. A collection will be taken at the end to raise funds for St. Mary’s.

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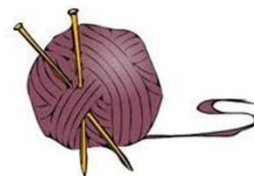
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Regular Activities



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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Prayer for the Month

Prayer:

Keep it simple;

Keep it real;

Keep it up.

This is the advice of Pete Greig who has written a number of books on prayer - I would especially recommend his book on when God seems silent and our prayers are not answered, called, *God on Mute*.

Pete also wrote the Prayer Course that we are following on Wednesday evenings. This is his basic advice on prayer.

Keep it simple. Prayer is a conversation with God, it involves speaking and listening. You don't need to be in a Church to pray you can pray anywhere. You don't need a priest or minister to pray for you - we can all approach God through Jesus Christ, because in Christ we are God's own daughters and sons. You don't need special words from ancient prayers or formal liturgies. Just speak you God your Father who loves you in your own words in your own way.

Keep it real. Be honest with God - God knows your heart anyway. If you feel angry or let down by God, then tell Him. If God cannot cope with our honesty then He is not God. The people and things that matter to you are the things that you can talk to God about. Keeping prayer real includes being open about our failings and our doubts.

Keep it up. Persevere in prayer. Don't give up when it is difficult or when it feels 'dry'. Like all relationships our relationship with God is based not just on our feelings. No one finds prayer easy, and at times everyone struggles with prayer. We struggle because we feel distant from God, and we struggle to pray when life is difficult. My experience is that it is at times like these when it matters that we pray. Think of it as building a good, life-sustaining habit; the more prayer becomes a natural part of who we are, the more it will help us through the difficult times of life.

Whether you are able to come along to the Prayer Course or not, I hope that you will grow in prayer and through it grow in your relationship with God. I pray that as you deepen your relationship with the Father, you will be filled with the Holy Spirit day by day, and that you will see heaven touching earth.

God bless,
Tim

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

Friday 7.30 pm Choir practice in choir vestry

Music Group Practice

Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church

Church Diary Items to Note - October 2019

October 2019

		Time	Item
Monday	7th	7:30pm	PCC
Tuesday	8th	All day	Sound System Installation
Wednesday	9th	All day	Sound System Installation
Wednesday	9th	7:30pm	Prayer Course 4
Saturday	12th	9:00am	Prayer Breakfast
Saturday	12th	10:00am	Visiting Bell Ringers
Saturday	12th	3:00pm	Wedding
Wednesday	16th	7:30pm	Prayer Course 5
Saturday	19th	10:00am	Children's Society Coffee Morning
Monday	21st	7:30pm	Baptism Prep
Wednesday	23rd	9:30am	Monteney Primary School visit to Church
Wednesday	23rd	7:30pm	Finance Team
Wednesday	23rd	7:30pm	Prayer Course 6
Thursday	24th	1:00pm	Ecclesfield Primary School in Church Harvest service

From the Registers

Baptisms

22nd September	Caspian Wilde Goodwin
22nd September	Benjamin Adam Warburton
22nd September	Oscar George Warburton

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

Weddings

7th September	Thomas Andrew Forster & Courtney Elizabeth Summerfield
21st September	Joe Ashley Solway & Laura Alison Reith
21st September	James Simon Macdonald & Rachel Jane Thickett

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

Funerals

26th August	Harry Ridge	97
19th September	Gary Bown	41

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

Flower Rota October 2019

6 th	A Hackett
13 th	Harvest Flowers
20 th	Vacant
27 th	Vacant

God in the Sciences

Continuing the Celebration!

On 13-20th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. “Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.”

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: “celebrate the festival to the Lord your God...For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.” Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we’re not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

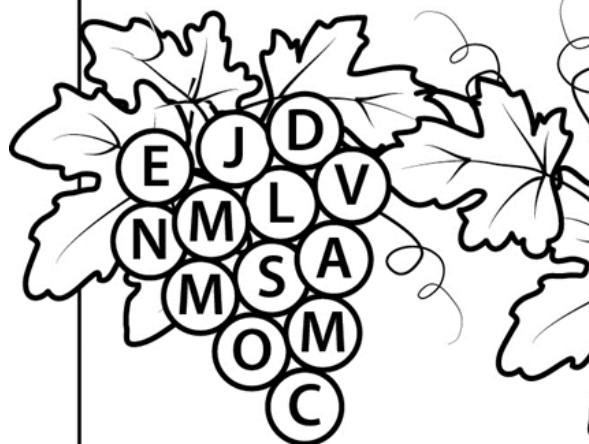
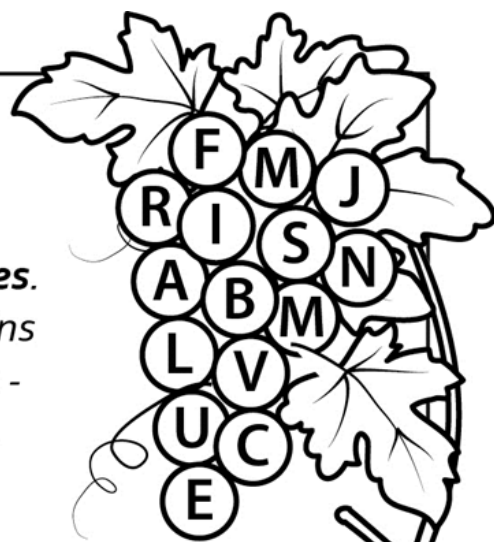
I’m very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God’s creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!



THE TRUE VINE
 Jesus said:
*"I am the **vine**;
 you are the **branches**.
 The one who remains
 in me -and I in him -
 bears much **fruit**,
 because apart
 from me you can
 accomplish nothing."*

John 15:5



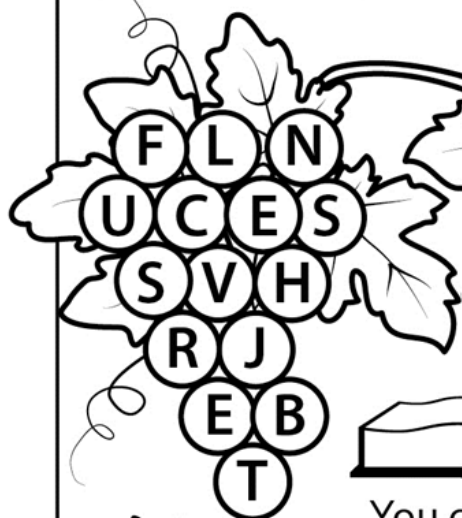
*"My **commandment** is this -
 to love one another just
 as I have loved you."*

John 15:12



*"No one has greater
love than this -
 that one lays down
 his life for his friends."*

John 15:13

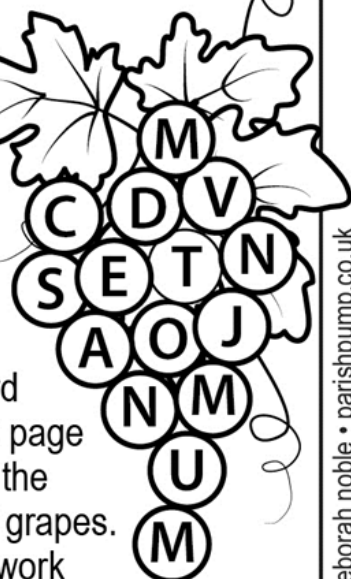


You can read
 Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
 John 15:1-17



How many other
 words can you make from:
 THE TRUE VINE

Each of the word
 in **bold** on this page
 is hidden in the
 bunches of grapes.
 Can you work
 out which bunch
 each word is in?



The Gardening Year – October 2019

Every Opportunity must be taken in fine October weather to carry out autumn digging. Soil which is dug over early in the Autumn gets the maximum benefit from the winter frosts and is broken down into good condition for spring planting.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants – October, when the soil is warm and not too wet and plants make new roots quickly, is the best month for planting most herbaceous perennials. Planting techniques, inset the plant upright, put the soil back so that it falls between as well as on the roots until levelled off. Firm the soil, either with the fingers if the soil is moist and lumpy, or with the heel if it is fairly loose and dry. Make sure that the plant when firmed is no more than 1.in deeper than it was before being dug up – the soil line indicating its previous depth is marked by a change in colour where the plant has a stem or foliage – or no more than 1.in below the surface if the plant consists of roots and dormant buds, like paeonies, or of crowns like hostas. Some kinds will show no sign of growth until well into the spring, so if you have not made a plan showing the name of each plant in its correct position, mark the position of plant by labelling.

Water plants and pools – towards the end of the month prepare for the winter by drastically thinning out underwater oxygenating plants and removing old water lily leaves. This will avoid the presence of a great deal of decaying vegetation on the base of the pool when the water is iced over, and will minimise the formation of toxic gases and prevent a shortage of oxygen, if the water looks dark green or blackish, drain off the volume and replace with fresh water. While the pool is half drained, take the opportunity to remove old leaves and debris from the base, but leave most of the mud, which contains aquatic insects and the resting bugs of some plants. In the bog garden and in areas surrounding the pool, divide and plant waterside subjects. Continue feeding fish as long as it is obvious that the food is being eaten and they are eager for it.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons - October – A season of plenty

Vegetables - Artichoke, Beetroot, Broccoli, Butternut Squash, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Chillies, Fennel, Garlic, Horseradish, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Marrow, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Pumpkin, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Truffles (Black), Truffles (White), Turnips, Watercress, Wild Mushrooms

Fruit - Apples, Bilberries, Blackberries, Elderberries, Figs, Grapes, Medlar, Pears, Quince

Herbs & Nuts - Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Chives, Cob Nuts, Hazelnuts, Parsley (Curly), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Thyme, Walnuts

Meat – Beef, Duck, Goose, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Lamb, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Clams, Cod, Coley, Crab, Dab, Dover Sole, Grey Mullet, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Herring, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Pilchard, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Red Mullet, Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Skate, Squid, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



It has been a good season although games have been quite heavily affected by rain with cancellations and shortened over matches. The first weekend in August saw a disappointing defeat at home to Cleethorpes followed by a reduced-overs match against Wickersley when James Moorhouse and Neil Longhurst put on a fine batting display with a partnership of 111 runs to win the match. The following week saw a bizarre match at Tickhill with Tickhill managing only 123 all out and Whitley managing only 85 all out. Normal service was resumed the following week with a finely balanced home win against Hallam, followed by an away win against Sheffield Collegiate in a match reduced to 30 overs due to rain.

And the final match of the season saw another finely balanced home game against Barnsley which Whitley won. Whitley finished the season in a creditable 6th place in the ECB Yorkshire Premier League South with Doncaster ending up as Champions. On 25th August, Whitley faced Wakefield in the final of the Yorkshire Leagues Viking Cup, moved to Elsecar from Beverley as both teams were from South Yorkshire. It was a close fight but in the end, Whitley were beaten by Wakefield (while England were managing a tremendous win at Headingley). The 2nd XI secured Division 1 cricket for next season but unfortunately, the 3rd team will be relegated to Division 7. See you in 2020.

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	
J		L		O	V		N		M		M	
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H	U	N	G		R		G		L	E	H	I
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ERIC EYRE

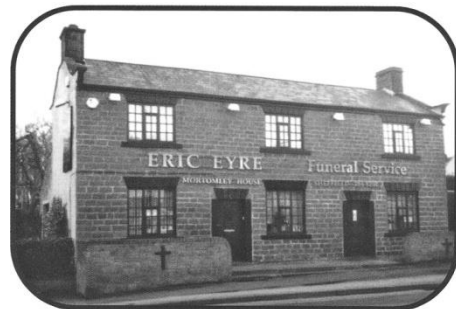
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Saint of the Month – October 10th

Thomas Traherne - lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary's Teddington, under the church's reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.


" The Cross is the abyss of wonders, the centre of desires, the school of virtues, the house of wisdom, the throne of love, the theatre of joys, and the place of sorrows; It is the root of happiness, and the gate of Heaven."



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The Prayer Course: A simple Guide for Normal People

By Pete Greig

No meeting on Wednesday 2nd October

Wednesday 9th October - The Prayer Course: **Intercession**

Wednesday 16th October - The Prayer Course: **Unanswered Prayer**

Wednesday 23rd October - The Prayer Course: **Contemplation**

Break for Half Term

Wednesday 6th November - The Prayer Course: **Listening**

Wednesday 13th November - The Prayer Course: **Spiritual Warfare**

You are welcome to come along to any of the sessions that you are able to make

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

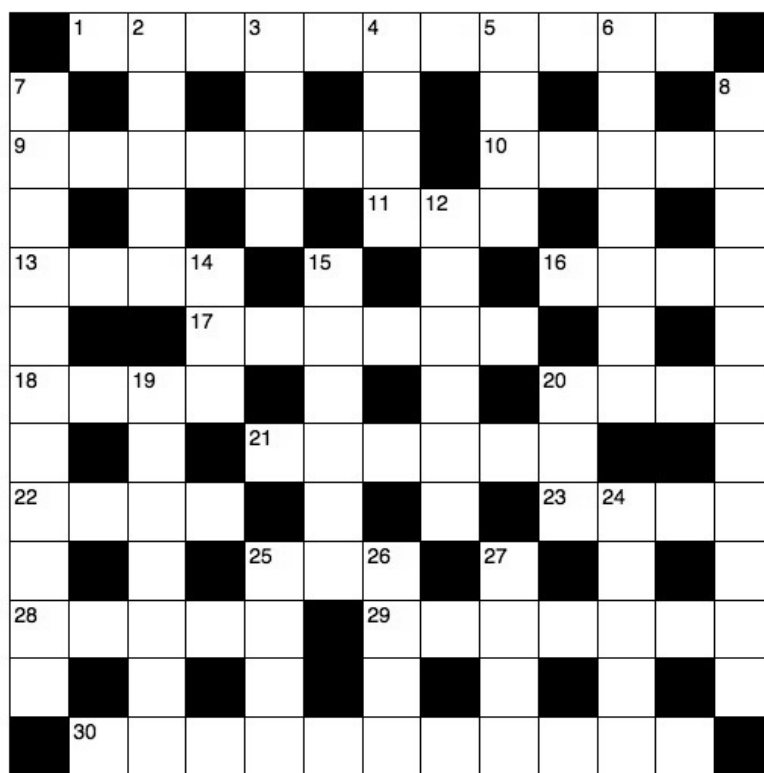
- 1** The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
16 Metallic element (4)
17 At line (anag.) (6)
18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Clues Down

- 2** 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)

- 8** Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
12 ‘I have made you — — for the Gentiles’ (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
15 ‘Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet’ (Judges 14:14) (6)
19 ‘I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man’s understanding’ (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
20 ‘Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace’ (Romans 6:14) (3)
24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
26 Heroic tale (4)
27 ‘Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ’ (John 8:32) (4)

Solution is on Page 20



Some miscellaneous one-liners

- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- The family that sticks together should bathe more often.
- Born free. Taxed to death.
- By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.
- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

Prayers and Poems Page

Love and protection

The love and affection of angels flying,
The love and affection of saints undying,
Heaven's love and affection satisfying,
O your guarding and cherishing let them be,
Your so loving protection eternally.

Ancient Celtic prayer for protection

Word-search

(John 1:1, Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 55:11, Hebrews 4:12)

Life is a Word-search.
Think John, chapter one.
There will be distractions
In the search,
Interesting groups of letters,
Many in the wrong order.
Some even making sense,
In their own way.
Sometimes all is confusion,
A jumble.
The temptation is to give up.
It's all too much of a puzzle.
But those who search will find,
And once found,
The Word
Makes sense of the search.

Even if some round-the-edge words
Remain a mystery,
Once found,
The main Word, the central Word
Is the key that opens hearts.

And the Word is,
And will be,
And even in the beginning, was.

It has gone out and will not return empty,
But living and active
Will accomplish the purpose for which it was sent.

The Word itself searches.

So let us search,
Oh, search the Word.

By Daphne Kitching

My Mobility Scooter

I love my little scooter
It helps me get about
It has a little hooter
So I don't need to shout;
Though neither help the shocking
State of paths, worse ev'ry day!
And neither help unblocking
The cars parked in my way.

By Nigel Beeton

Petition at Rising

O holy Father of truth adored,
O kindly Father of mercy poured,
Deliver me from the spells that harm,
Deliver me from each evil charm.

Allow no stain to blemish my soul,
Allow no spot to my body whole,
Allow no taint my breath to defile,
Father of tender and lovely smile.

For now and for henceforth unto me
In my life, in my death, do thou be,
O Son and Abba Father of love,
And Holy Spirit of grace above!

From an ancient Celtic prayer from South Uist

I love to wander

I love to wander through the woodlands hoary,
In the soft light of an autumnal day,
When summer gathers up her robes of glory,
And, like a dream of beauty, glides away.

By Sarah Helen Whitman

We are rivers

Lord, we are rivers running to thy sea,
Our waves and ripples all derived from thee:
A nothing we should have, a nothing be,
Except for thee.

*From a prayer of Christina Rossetti 1830–1894,
who was an invalid for most of her life, and also a
prolific poet.*

The Churchyard - Issue 10

When reading verses on gravestones it is sometimes hard to understand how some were permitted to be inscribed. What a reflection on the lack of impact of the teaching of Christian principles during the life of a person to have such an epitaph as I recently found engraved on their stone after death.

'How love'd, how valued once avails thee not,
To who related or to whom begot,
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
Tis all thou art, tis all that we shall be'.

The whole message of Christ's life and death on this earth seems to have been missed. How much better is the rather unique inscription found on a stone at the bottom of the slope at the east end of the yard.

`In memory of Joseph Batty of Mortomley, who was accidentally precipitated into a coalpit 75 yards deep, 6th December 1828, aged 32 years.

Whirl'd from the precincts of the cheerful day,
Down the deep abys was his mortal clay,
We hope his spirit it winged its way above;
To sing the praises of his Redeemer's love'.

A quotation from 'A Psalm of Life' by Longfellow, recently given in a letter in a national newspaper is an appropriate conclusion.

`Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal,
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul'.

In a district which has been for many years associated with coal mining, it is surprising that there are not many more references to mine accidents. There is, however, one which recalls the disaster at Stairfoot near Barnsley when many were killed. It is of a member of one of the principal Ecclesfield families during the last two centuries. The stone reads: -

Also, Parkin Jeffcock, late of Duffield in the County of Derby, Esquire, civil engineer and nephew of the said William Parkin, and second child and eldest son of John and Catherine Jeffcock of Cowley Manor where he was born 27th October 1829. He died in the great explosion at Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, leading a band of volunteer explorers on 13th December 1866 and was buried 7th October 1867.

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

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email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com

Ecclesfield Cubs

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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

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Useful Contacts



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Sue Harland 245 0006

Tom Proctor 246 0373

Michael Waldron 246 3091

Readers: Pat Clarke 257 7191

Stephanie Dale 245 2392

Pastoral Workers: Pat Wood 246 5086

Church Office:

Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm

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: Stephanie Hartshorne 245 9435

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 us on: 0780 307 8223

Baptisms: Contact – Pat Clarke 257 7191

Weddings: Contact: Revd Tim Gill 257 0002

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

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