News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine June 2020

www.stmarysecclesfield.com



First Words

As I write this month's "First Word" we are about to go into 'Ordinary Time' - the official title of the weeks after Trinity Sunday (1st June). Of course though nothing about this year has been or is likely to be ordinary!

We are still in lockdown, we do not know when we will be able to open Church again for Sunday services, Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals. I have already begun to think through the measures that we will have to take to keep everyone safe once we are allowed back in our beautiful building.

As with last month there are no diary items. June's weddings, Baptisms and Coffee mornings are cancelled. I hope that by July there will be things happening and we will be able to worship together.

There will be worship from St Mary's on the Church Facebook page and on the website every Thursday and Sunday.

I am very pleased to be able to report some good news. So far Rita Rowland has raised £955 for Church funds be getting sponsors for her daily walk. An enormous "Thank you" to Rita and all who have supported her fantastic effort.

The funds that Rita has raised are greatly appreciated as with no regular services, no Coffee Mornings on Tuesdays and Fridays and no fees from weddings etc., we are down on our usual income.

Thank you to those who contribute to Church through direct bank payments, and also to those who usually contribute through the plate on Sunday mornings who have dropped off contributions during these months of lockdown.

If anyone who usually donates by putting money or envelopes on the plate on Sundays wants to you can send a cheque to the vicarage, payable to "St Mary's Ecclesfield PCC" and I will get it to the treasurer.

Until we are able to meet together again, God bless you,

Tim

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Front Cover – St Mary's – Summer 2009 PFL Editor - For a virtual visit click on the picture on the front cover

Back Cover – View through St. Mary's lych gate Editor – To donate online click anywhere on the back page

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Thought for the Month

In my daily Bible Readings I have just read through the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. I am willing to bet that they are no one's favourite books of the Bible!

The authorship of the books is uncertain, but tradition has it that Ezra the scribe wrote both books. Together they provide detailed information about the return of the Hebrew people from exile in Babylon. These books have never created much of a stir in the Church. There are very few, if any memorable passages, their understanding of God seems small and narrow compared with Paul or the Gospels, they tell of no miracles.

Yet, as I read through these rather neglected books, it struck me that they do have an important role in the spiritual formation of the Church. The problems faced by the priest Ezra and the governor Nehemiah are not unlike the issues that the Church faces today.

Understanding our identity as the people of God, and living lives of faithful obedience are challenges that we face too. Too often Christians and Churches simply reflect the materialism and self-centredness of the popular culture.

Jesus called the Church "the salt of the earth" (<u>Matthew 5:13</u>), and it doesn't take much salt to make a difference, but too often the Church becomes bland, in Jesus' terms it "loses its savour." Reading Ezra and Nehemiah reminds us of the importance of being a faithful people.

There are two main issues in these books: identity as the people of God and worship.

The temptation facing those returning from exile was to simply blend in with the people who were living in the land to which the exiles returned. Ezra and Nehemiah reminded the exiles that they are the people of God, that they have to be distinctive, and that their distinctiveness comes from their obedience to God's call and God's word. In order to do this they had to re-connect with their past; they did this by re-building the Jerusalem Temple.

By establishing links with past traditions the Church develops a clearer picture of who we are as a community of faith - it's a bit like scanning through an old family album. The hymns and prayers of the past still sustain the

Church today; being culturally relevant doesn't mean cutting our ties to our faith history.

Worship is at the heart of Ezra and Nehemiah. They reminded the exiles that Israel is a worshipping community. As one commentator wrote: "Worship would provide the mould that would forge these returned Jews into the people of God. Sometimes worship was joyful and celebratory, and sometimes the people could not stop crying."

Today the Church has many things to do: evangelism, pastoral ministry, teaching and preaching, but the most important thing that we do is worship. Worship shapes us into God's people. The house of God is first and foremost "a house of prayer."

When we are able to return to our beautiful building, there will be many tasks and jobs to do. But worship must be our priority. Everything else that we do must flow from that.

God bless,

Tim.



God and The Arts

'I am the true vine'

Jesus the Good Shepherd has been a popular inspiration for artists from the earliest days of Christianity. But this month we focus on another image that has been just as powerful and influential from the first centuries of the Church: Jesus the vine.

We think of grapes and the vine as symbols of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of Jesus, but early artists borrowed their inspiration from Greek and Roman sources with Dionysos (or Bacchus), the god of wine. For pagan believers, wine was a sign of intoxication and renewal of life, and Dionysos was a god who died and rose again. Under that influence, sculptors would carve vines on Christian tombs as a sign of that promise of new life.



But those artists were also influenced by the vine as an image of the people of Israel in the Old Testament, with God as the vintner tending his vine, as they were influenced by our Lord's own words in St John's Gospel. When Jesus talked of Himself as the vine, He was pointing to two truths. The first was the connection between the vine and the grapes: it was a symbol for the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. They are the grapes, because they receive their fruitfulness from Jesus. Without Him, there would be no growth, no maturity, no fruit. 'Whoever remains in Me, with Me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

The second truth in this image is the wine that can bring life a new taste. Just as Jesus changed water into wine, His whole life was one of transformation – bringing water to the thirsty, sight to the blind, light to those in darkness, forgiveness to the sinner, and eternal life to those burdened by this world and the reality of death. The wine is a symbol of that goodness and flavour, both in creation and in salvation – the wine at the dinner party, and the wine in the chalice in communion. Jesus as the true vine brings that flavour and goodness to us.

Both truths speak out to us from this month's image of Jesus in an icon. In the Orthodox Church the icon is a window into the kingdom of heaven. As we stand and pray before the icon, if we can bridge 'the distance of the heart' (the space between the human eye and the icon), then God can reveal His glory to us. Here we see the face of Jesus in a 16th century icon, which is in the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens – the icon of Christ the true vine. He looks out at us, the Gospel book in His lap and His hands outstretched to bless the 12 disciples. The icon illustrates very vividly that metaphor of Jesus when He says that He is the vine and they are the branches. But those hands are also welcoming us to be with the 12: they invite us to offer our lives to live in Jesus.

Anselm Grün, a German Benedictine, tells how one of his fellow monks wondered what a difference there would have been if Jesus had said, 'I am a slimming camomile tea.' But no, He says to us in the Gospel and in the icon, 'I am the true vine': live in Me like my 12 disciples and your lives can be fruitful in my service.

St James the Least of All

On why holding an Arts Festival in church is not a good idea

My dear Nephew Darren.

The Rectory St. James the Least

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

On the Covid Frontline

Nigel Beeton (pictured right) works in Radiology in a hospital in the East of England. He is writing a weekly diary of his life at the hospital.



Weekend 22nd May

I had another new experience today – my first (and hopefully my only) coronavirus test.

I had to sit in a little room about the size of a toilet cubicle, and a very cheery nurse (who I know very well from her normal job when she isn't testing) came in dressed in PPE and stuck a swab up each nostril. I think the word is 'uncomfortable' rather than painful – don't let me put you off being tested if you need a test – and it was all over in a trice.

Now I've got you all worried that I'm suffering from the virus. Fear not, I am as fit as the proverbial butcher's dog, but sadly one of my colleagues from CT has now tested positive and I was working quite closely with her last week, so they thought I and a few others should get the test to be on the safe side.

I have to be thankful to have got through to the second half of May with 237 staff, a significant proportion of whom in direct contact with the public and with coronavirus sufferers, and not to have had a single one of them infected with the virus. We hope and pray that she will make a complete recovery, at the last bulletin she was still reasonably well.

I am, as you all by now know, immensely proud of these wonderful people who get up each morning knowing the risks, but still they come. I also hope that my own test is negative, not just for the usual reasons but because it would compel me to self-isolate, and I have a very good reason to want to be in the hospital next week.

That reason is because next Thursday marks the end of a career in full-time radiography which began on 13th September 1978 when a scared young 18 year old entered the Luton and Dunstable Hospital in Bedfordshire to commence my training. Nearly 42 years later, I am retiring. Things are not quite the way I'd planned – but by the time the virus struck it was too late to change the actual dates because my replacements (yes, two!) have been appointed.

A lot of people quite understandably are fearful of hospitals and dislike them. Well, the buildings are rarely pretty and the experiences to be had therein (such as having your nose swabbed) are frequently those we can do without, no matter how hard the staff try to make them pleasant. But when you work in hospitals, believe me, they really get into your blood.

The whole atmosphere of a hospital as a workplace is, and always has been, uniquely wonderful. Especially when, as recently, the chips have been down, that sense of camaraderie is one that I would miss. So, I'll be back later in June for a couple of days a week, but by then the responsibility for the safety of all those patients and staff will have passed on to other shoulders, and I shall just be a part time worker bee! Be warned – that will leave me more time to write my doggerel for the Parish Pump!

That, of course depends on the pandemic not worsening again, and upon the staff staying well, otherwise it'll be back to the PPE for me!

Help needed in the church garden

If you can, mow, weed, strim, sweep, pickup sticks, rake leaves or drive a sit on mower, we need you. If you can spare just one or two hours a week it would be a great help. Not only will the church look good, but you might even feel your spiritual and physical well-being improve and in our small way help the environment. We come to the churchyard every Tuesday and Friday afternoon (weather permitting) followed by a drinks and biscuits, sometimes even a cake. Any help most welcome. Thank you. Pat Wood

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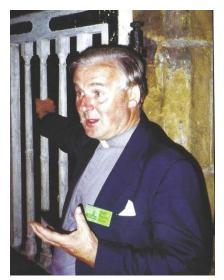
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Revd. Canon Ralph Mayland VRD* - 1927 to 2020



We have received the very sad news from Hexham that former Vicar of Ecclesfield, Ralph Mayland, has died from complications associated with heart failure.

Born in Beeston, Leeds, Ralph was educated at Crossflatts Elementary School and Cockburn High School. Ralph had his military service deferred towards the end of WW II and he entered Teacher Training School in Leeds. In 1946, he joined the Royal Navy as a recruit. Promoted to officer training, he stayed in the Navy after compulsory national service and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After 10 years, he left the Royal Navy to teach in London Secondary Schools, becoming a member of Royal Naval Volunteer

Reserve. In 1957, he began training for ordination at Ripon Hall, Oxford, and two years later was ordained Deacon in Southwark Cathedral to serve as Curate at St. Mary's Church, Lambeth where he became a Priest in 1960.

During this time, he met Jean Goldstraw and they were married in 1959. The marriage was more than a love match as both Ralph and Jean had sharp intellects and would enjoy a life debating a range of issues together. In 1962 Ralph was appointed Priest in charge of St. Paul's, Manton near Worksop, where he had a brand new church building on a new housing estate and was also made a Chaplain in the RNVR. In 1968 he was appointed Vicar of St. Margaret's, Brightside, and became a member of the Sheffield Industrial Mission.

Ralph moved to St. Mary's, Ecclesfield in 1972 where he was to stay for 10 years becoming Chaplain to the Master Cutler. He was a vicar who led from the front with clear and thoughtful sermons and quite firm and clearly expressed views about society. While at Ecclesfield, he oversaw a re-ordering which included removal of some pews and a range of changes including the completion of the nave altar. He had hoped to include a kitchen but some objections from people wishing to prevent the church from "becoming a coffee bar" resulted in a Consistory Court and deferment of the plan (the kitchen and toilet were finally constructed in 2002)! Ralph, with his naval background, also started an annual Trafalgar Day service, partly in commemoration of Nelson's chaplain, Revd.



Ecclesfield

Alexander Scott, who is buried at Ecclesfield and whose daughter Margaret married a previous vicar, Dr. Alfred Gatty. He lived in what was then the "new vicarage" behind the church with his wife Jean and daughters Sarah and Alex plus a range of animals in the vicarage "garden". Jean became the first female licensed lay-reader in Sheffield in 1974 and was a lifetime campaigner for the cause of women in the church, with strong support from Ralph, becoming a member of the National Synod and World Council.

Continues on page 16

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Prayer for the Month

"Be still and know that I am God." <u>Psalm 46:10.</u>

The term "Apophatic Prayer" (without speech) may not be familiar to you. It is the technical name for the prayer of silence. It is simply being in the presence of God without words, without agenda.

It is the idea that we do not and cannot know God unless God reveals Himself to us. In the Bible God has revealed Himself to us, but we often come to the Bible with our own preconceived ideas and beliefs, and these can get in the way of our ability to actually meet with and know the living God. We can end up worshipping *our idea of God* rather than encountering God.

Those who dip their toes into the prayer of silence find that if they persevere with it their relationship with Jesus grows and deepens, and their love for others begins to flourish too.

It is good to meet with a group of others to pray; of course at the moment this is not possible, but people can agree to practice silent prayer at the same time and so be together in spirit. In this way we can encourage and support each other.

It is usually best to begin with a short achievable time - say 5 mins, building up to about 20 mins over a few weeks. Many people have an 'anchor word' - some aspect of God's character that they want to know more deeply. the anchor might be, "mercy," or "love," or "joy." When you find your mind wandering to the list of jobs to do, or what you need from the shops, just go back to your anchor.

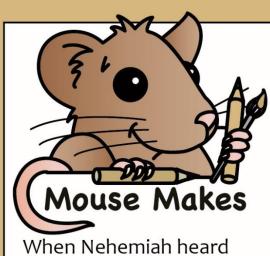
Set a timer on your phone or clock, start with 5 minutes, and place the timer out of sight. Then open in prayer, perhaps saying, "Here I am God, longing to know more of you." And then, rest; rest in the presence of the Father. When your timer goes off, end with The Lord's Prayer.

At the end you may want to write down anything that you feel God is saying to you.

Remember it isn't about achieving anything; it is simply being in the presence of God, waiting for God to reveal what He wants to you as and when He wants.

In a busy and noisy world where we are all under pressure to be productive 20 minutes each week unpressured in God's presence could become the most important time of the week.

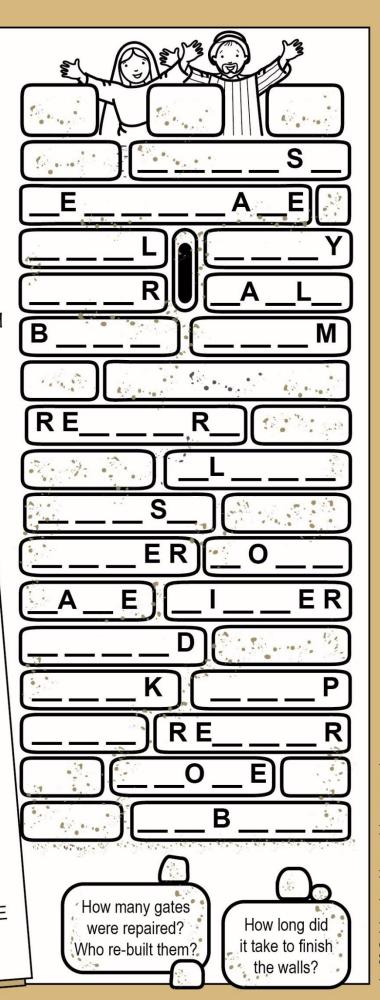
God bless, Tim.



that the walls of Jeruaslem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God. Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy... **READ** Nehemiah's story in the Old Testament book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jesusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

O GATE O PRAY O BEAM O RUBBLE O BOLT O REPAIR O BAR RESTORE O STEP O BUILD O TOWER O WORK O HOUSE O STONE O POOL TIMBER O FINISH **O** WALLS O DEDICATE O FLOOR O DOOR O ROOF O CELEBRATE



Editor's Lockdown Humour

A priest, a rabbit and a minister walk into a bar. The rabbit says, "I might be a typo"

As much as Pooh missed Piglet, he really did enjoy that bacon sandwich.

Starting the day with two eggs for breakfast, they are Cadbury Cream Eggs but whatever. The diet plan says "2 eggs" so let's not get picky...

Just finished my 30th Marathon since this lockdown started. Still can't bring myself to call them Snickers...

The buttons on my jeans have started social distancing from each other.

Imagine if this lockdown happened 18-years ago.

You would be stuck at home with a Nokia 3310 with 300 texts, 100 minutes of calls limit, and dial-up internet with no catchup TV or streaming movies...

The patron saint of copying people in on emails is St Francis of A CC

The Devon and Cornwall music festival has been cancelled as they couldn't decide which to put on first; The Jam or Cream...

Telling your suitcase there's no vacation this year can be tough. Emotional baggage is the worst.

The top four hardest thing to say: I'm sorry – I was wrong – I need help – Worcestershire sauce

"What day is it?" - "It's today," squeaked Piglet. "My favourite day," said Pooh.

I keep trying really hard to make hand sanitiser



From the Registers

Funerals

SGS = Simple Graveside Service and SCS = Simple Crematorium Service Memorial Services will follow when things are back to normal.

5th May	Irene Garner	
6th May	David Tingle	
18th May	Jonathan Robinson	
20th May	Leonard Helliwell	

All were burials in Ecclesfield Cemetery after a short graveside service.

Our apologies there was name miss-spelt in the May edition it should have read:

24th March Ann May Roper aged 75 SCS

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



God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A Scientist Reflects on God's Heart for the Suffering

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, writing this under lockdown, I have found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19 because the reminders of its impact on people's lives are everywhere that I look.

One of the ways I have been managing my own feelings during the pandemic is by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted' (<u>Psalm 34:18a</u>). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (<u>John 11</u>). God is "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (<u>2 Corinthians 1:3</u>).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as <u>Psalm 19</u> describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised "new heavens and new earth" mentioned in the New Testament. One day "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay" (<u>Romans 8: 21</u>), and for everyone who follows God, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes" (<u>Revelation 21: 4</u>).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

Revd. Canon Ralph Mayland VRD* - 1927 to 2020

She was also instrumental in revising the church services into what became known as the alternative service book or ASB. At Ecclesfield, it was encouragement from Ralph and Jean which resulted in Norma Priest and Jeni Fryer training to become licensed layreaders with Jeni subsequently in the first group of women to be ordained in Sheffield. After leaving Ecclesfield Jean was also ordained in the first group of women priests. Ralph was well liked in Ecclesfield and is remembered with affection as a charismatic vicar.

He moved from Ecclesfield in 1982 on appointment as Canon Residentiary and Canon Treasurer at York Minster. In York he oversaw completion of the huge project to underpin the foundations of the building and the recovery from the fire in the South Transept and also became Chaplain to HMS York. He was in great form when a group from Ecclesfield visited York for a tour of the Minster and to see the amazing new foundations. As Canon Treasurer, he met both HM the Queen and HM the Queen Mother. He retired from York after 12 years in 1994 and served as a non-stipendiary minister as honorary curate in charge of St. Brandon's, Brancepeth, near Durham, until he fully retired 2 years later.



In retirement, Ralph and Jean moved to live in Barmston on the East Coast near to Bridlington where they both worked with the local churches including Bridlington Priory. Their final move was to Hexham in 2009. They were regular worshippers at Hexham Abbey, sometimes preaching and taking part in leading services. Ralph continued his association with the Royal Navy Reserves with the appointment as honorary chaplain to the Eighth Destroyer Association. Ralph was always proud of the long service medal for officers in the Navy Reserves (Volunteer Reserve Decoration) in 1962, to which a bar was later added in 1972.

Visitors to their homes always received an extremely warm welcome and in Hexham were entertained in a sitting room that was completely full of mementos from a full and busy life in the church and the Navy, each item with its own story.

Both Ralph and Jean moved into care homes last year with Ralph in a nursing home. A gathering of friends and family, from near and far, celebrated Ralph and Jean's 60th wedding anniversary on 25 July 2019, an occasion that was also marked by a congratulatory message from the Queen. Ralph died peacefully in hospital on April 27th aged 93. Sarah had been able to visit and Ralph spoke with Jean, Alex and his grand-daughters Lauren, Rachel and Isabel. The family were so grateful that they were able to say good-bye to Ralph in these troubled times. There will be a small private cremation on 14th May and a memorial service in York Minster at a later date.

Ecclesfield Church sends its condolences and love to Jean, Sarah, Alex and family. RIP Ralph.

Andrew Robinson

The Gardening Year – June 2020

The sun is at its strongest during June and every care must be taken to keep down weeds and to maintain soil moisture. Pests and diseases must be checked whenever they show the first signs of invading the garden. Early action can do much to keep these enemies under control.

Lawns: apply a supplementary fertiliser if not given in May. Between June and October regulate the height of mower blades according to the weather, during drought raise the blades and cut without the box: the clippings will help to maintain moisture.

Roses: many hybrid tea roses have flowering shoots on which two or three side buds are produced in addition to the main bud at the top, if you want quality blooms or blooms with long stems for cutting remove the small side buds as soon as it is possible to pick them off with finger and thumb, this is called disbudding.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants: where early flowering kinds are fading cut them off within 3in. of ground level and clear away any support sticks. This encourages a fresh crop of foliage which will provide ground cover for the rest of the summer.

Chrysanthemums: plants grown for decorative purposes will give good results if the growing tips of the plants are removed at the time when the little breaks are just showing in the leaf axils of the main stems. Do this at any time between the middle of May and the middle of June the earlier the better for the plants which are to flower in the open, do not delay this stop later than June 21st otherwise the flowers will be of poor quality and too late to avoid the autumn frosts

Greenhouses and Frames: this month pay particular attention to watering. Plants in pots and grow bags may need two or more applications daily during hot weather. Maintain a humid atmosphere by frequent damping down, otherwise red spider mites may prove troublesome. If you are growing potatoes you must spray against potato blight, potato blight also attacks tomato plants so these must be sprayed as well. Spray as soon as the potato plants touch each other in the rows.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – June

Vegetables - Artichoke, Asparagus, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Carrots, Chillies, Courgettes, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Kohlrabi, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Mangetout, New Potatoes, Onions, Pak Choi, Peas, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Nettles **Fruit** - Apricots, Bilberries, Blueberries, Cherries, Gooseberries, Greengages, Kiwi Fruit, Peaches, Strawberries

Herbs - Basil, Chervil, Chives, Coriander, Dill, Elderflowers, Oregano, Mint, Nasturtium, Parsley (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leafed), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Tarragon, Thyme

Meat – Lamb, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Cod, Coley, Crab, Haddock, Halibut, Herring, Langoustine, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Scallops (Queen), Sea Bream, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Squid, Whelks, Whitebait Visit - <u>www.eattheseasons.co.uk</u>

Letter from the Editor

Well here we are already into June and publishing our 3rd Online Parish Magazine.

At this point in the year we would normally invite people to take out a subscription to the magazine for the next 12-months, however this year it is going to be a little different.

Because we are unable to print the magazine for "real", we can't reach the number of subscribers we have done in the past, so our income will be that much lower. In addition, we are not incurring the costs of paper and printing for the physical magazine, however the other costs; website, time and effort remain.

So, this year we won't be asking people to subscribe, instead we ask that you consider donating to the church instead.

Similarly, we won't be asking our advertisers to pay for their adverts this year, that way we can support the local businesses that advertise with us and provide the services people need.

We hope to be able to print the magazine in the future once restrictions are relaxed and people can join us once again in church for services and coffee mornings, but that may be several months away.

This is your magazine, and in these times of lockdown, it would be great to be able to include your stories, poems and pictures. It is a way of connecting with each other and sharing your thoughts and feelings.

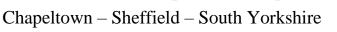
Also, the magazine is a historic document and would be an interesting glimpse of life at this time, for future generations and worshippers at St Mary's.

Stay safe, stay healthy, until we can all meet again. Editor





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Without the Trinity, there is no Christianity

The Trinity is easier to say than to explain. Christians believe in one God, made up of three equal Persons. It is fundamental to the Nicene Creed, which sets out the definitive doctrine of the Trinity for more than two billion Christians worldwide, including all Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Reformed Christians.

The theologian Ian Paul, writing on the Book of Revelation, points out that chapter five has a wonderful depiction of the Trinity in action. He writes: "...another figure appears in the drama, the lion who looks like a lamb. ... Here is the one who fulfils the hopes of God's people Israel, as the promised anointed Davidic king who was to come. Here is one who is fierce and powerful enough to conquer their enemies, and tear them apart.

"And yet when John sees Him, He is like a weak and vulnerable lamb who has been slaughtered, just as the Passover lamb eaten by the people, the suffering servant who was 'wounded for our transgressions' and the lamb offered as an atoning sacrifice. He is the one who was slain, but now stands, and shares the throne with God, and with Him sends the Spirit to enact His will on earth. Here we have the most explicit (and perhaps the most complex) Trinitarian statement in the whole New Testament."

From the Rev Dr Ian Paul's excellent blog at:

https://www.psephizo.com/revelation/what-does-rev-4-5-tell-us-about-the-trinity/



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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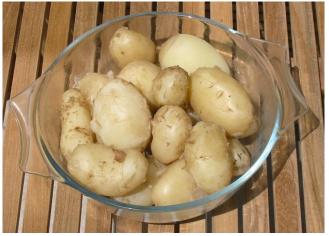




British Institute of
Funeral DirectorsEric Eyre National President1989 - 1990

It is time to eat Jersey Royal New Potatoes

The fabulous flavour of Jersey Royal new potatoes arises from the unique growing conditions on the island (see below). A true seasonal gem, around 99% of the crop is exported to the UK and the rest are enjoyed by the Jersey inhabitants. How lucky are we? The season is short-lived so gorge on them while you can.



History - In around 1880 a Jersey farmer, Hugh de la Haye, discovered and harvested a potato that was initially named the Jersey Royal Fluke. This developed into today's Jersey Royal new potato which is now grown by approximately 90 island farmers and accounts for two-thirds on the island's agricultural output. Much of the crop of Jersey Royals is grown in fields too steep to be harvested mechanically. A lot of the potatoes are picked by a visiting seasonal workforce that travels from, amongst other places, Poland and Madeira.

Biology - It is the growing conditions, rather than any significant genetic difference, that makes the Jersey Royal a special kind of new potato. The island slopes from north to south and so benefits from a large level of sunlight during the growing season. The soil is well-drained and nutrient-rich thanks to the vraic (locally collected seaweed) that is used as a fertiliser.

Buying and Storing - The early season potatoes are smaller and more tender, the later season ones larger and more flavourful; both are fabulous. Look for unwashed potatoes; they travel better wearing a jacket of earth. To enjoy them at their best buy just what you plan to use in the next two days and keep them in a cool, dark place. But remember to remove the plastic packaging.

Preparing & Cooking - Wash, but don't scrape the potatoes as there are a lot of nutrients as well as flavour in the skins. Steam or boil until tender (15 - 20 minutes, cut larger potatoes in half if necessary) and add butter and other fresh herbs such as mint, chives or parsley as desired.

Place the larger ones over the base of the saucepan and pop the smaller ones on top. Pour in enough boiling water to almost cover, add some salt and the sprig of mint. Cover with a tight-fitting lid, and simmer gently for about 20 minutes. Test them with a skewer, but remember they must be tender but still firm: overcooking really does spoil them.

Alternatively, the potatoes can be steamed, sprinkling them with salt and tucking the mint in among them. Meanwhile, mix the butter and herbs thoroughly together with some pepper. Then drain the cooked potatoes, add the herb butter, put the lid back on and swirl the pan around to get each one thoroughly coated. Remove the lid and just savour the delicious aroma for a couple of seconds before you dish them out!

For Members of St. Mary's MU

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all safe and well in these strange times. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Many of you will have received your 'Families Worldwide', but I know that not all of you have done. With the booklet was a letter from Mary Sumner House expressing the difficulties they are finding due to COVID-19. They are not able to let the rooms at Mary Sumner House, the shop sales are down and they are not able to undertake their normal fundraising, The letter states that in view of this they expect a £1m shortfall in their income.

Obviously they are asking for donations. If you feel you would like to donate then you can visit www.support.mothersunion.org and donate on line or you can send a cheque payable to Mothers' Union and send it to Mothers' Union, 126 Fairlie Road, SLOUGH, SL1 4PY

I look forward to us being able to meet together again but in the meantime keep safe. If you feel you need a chat please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Much Love Stephanie

Ecclesfield Library - Run by Volunteers

Unfortunately, our library remains closed at the present time If you have any suggestions for books you would like to see in the library then please email us at <u>ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com</u>

Libraries Sheffield

We continue to provide online library services via our e-library and a simple registration process to become a member visit:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/libraries-archives/the-elibrary

For updates to library services including the Home Library Service check our website, our shefflibraries.blogspot.com and our social media channels on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/shefflibraries and Twitter: www.twitter.com/SheffLibraries For our online book club visit www.goodreads.com

We are sorry that we are having to close our doors and look forward to welcoming you back to our libraries and Archives as soon as we can. Best Wishes -Sheffield Libraries and Archives Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

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The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold.

How well have people coped with the pandemic? Has it strengthened or weakened their faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?

We have developed a survey over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people which we hope will enable you to record your experience of the pandemic, the ministry you have given or received, and what you think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world. In an article to launch the survey in the *Church Times*, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: "This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown."

This is an online survey, which we estimate it will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words. Alongside questions about the pandemic and ministry there are sections which ask about you: these are important because they will allow us to see how the lockdown is affecting different sorts of people in different contexts.

The survey can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers.

You can access using the following link: <u>https://tinyurl.com/ycsq9fy2</u>

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research. We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

The Revd Professor Andrew Village, York St John University <u>a.village@yorksj.ac.uk</u>

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis, Visiting Professor York St John University

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

1 See 23 Across

3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)

- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- **11** Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)

17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)

- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Clues Down

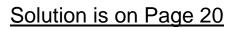
1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

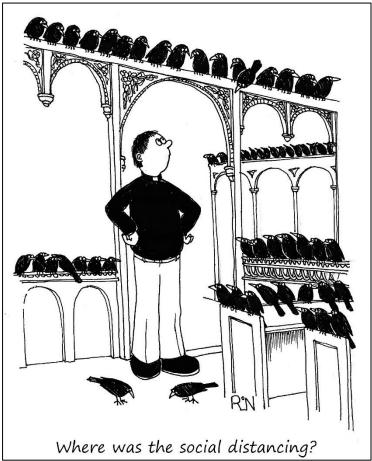
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- **10** Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)

12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

- **13** Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- **16** 'There is still — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- **19** Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)







Prayers and Poems Page

Titwillow - (With apologies to WS Gilbert)

On a tree by a river sat little Tom Tit Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'. His mate fluttered in and beside him did sit, Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'. "Oh, where are the people?" bewildered, he cried, "Tis many a day since a soul I have spied" "I think," said his wife, "they're all staying inside!" "Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow".

"I do like the quiet, I do like the peace! "Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow, "But find myself wondering why did they cease "Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow?" "The people in hundreds of cars they all came "Especially when there was no sign of much rain, "The weather's so nice, it seems such a shame! "Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

"I think I can tell you!" – she'd a smile on her beak, Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,

"For I saw some people last Saturday week, "Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,

"They stood in a group, they were flying a kite, "Along came a police car with lights flashing bright, "It seems the Old Bill gave those people a fright! "Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

A buzzard, above them, then uttered his 'mew' Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow. As quick as they could off to safety they flew, Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow! Arrived at their nest then our avian pair Correctly concluded what caused human scare: "They're frightened of critters that fly in the air! "Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

By Nigel Beeton

Shield me - A prayer for Trinity Sunday

O may God shield me, and may God fill, O may God watch me, and may God hold; O may God bring me where peace is still, To the King's land, eternity's fold. Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

From The Creed Prayer, poems of the Western Highlanders.

In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer Who intercedes before the throne The Son of God who ever cares Who walks with us, we're not alone.

Though flood and pestilence should come He sees the path that we now tread His rod and staff will comfort us He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things And lift our prayers to heaven above Our confidence is all in Him Encompassed by unfailing love.

By Megan Carter

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now Since Covid came to stay We don't dress up or do our hair But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap A Zoom with his IT And so we sit down ev'ry week And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty With praise she does not ring; But still her people gather round To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing Yet it has helped us see The church is NOT a building But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

The cattle grazing

Smooth pastures, long, and wide to roam, Beneath your hoofs, rich meadowland, Friend God the Son to bring you home To fields where springs eternal stand, Fields where springs eternal stand.

From poems of the Western Highlanders

The Churchyard – Issue 16

The ease of travel, radio and television of the present day, have largely destroyed the village life of days gone by. During the last century it was perhaps at its height when the villagers had to find their own amusement within the village. They did this with enthusiasm whether it be the pursuit of music, dramatics and literature, or drinking and the baser sports. Ecclesfield had a peculiar reputation for excelling at both levels. Stocks Hill was the venue for the worst in the form of rough sports such as bear baiting and the best in the vast gatherings of the Whit Monday Sunday School meetings.

The Whit Monday meetings, as now; were a combined effort of the Church and Chapels. The denominations were, very close and it was common for devout members of the Wesleyan Chapel to be married in the Church and buried in the Churchyard. Mr. William Gregory was a good example. He was a Wesleyan, was married in the Church, for many years conducted the singing at Stocks Hill, and was highly respected by people of both denominations. Both his wife and himself were buried by Dr. Gatty in the Churchyard, his wife aged 79 on 17th February, 1884 and he aged 76 on 2nd April, 1884.

An opportunity was afforded to the musical enthusiasts to pursue their art in the form of a string and reed orchestra in the Church in the days before an organ was installed. Apart from providing music in the Church they often made tours of the parish accompanied by the choir. One noted violincello was known as the 'Ecclesfield Bass' which had been purchased for six guineas collected during one of the parish tours. On one occasion it was broken and had to be sent to London for repair which cost ten guineas. For almost fifty years it was played by John Walker of Shiregreen who had taken it home so long that on his death his family thought that it was their property. A compromise was reached by payment after which it passed to Joel Hobson who in turn played it so long that he thought that it was his property. A tribute to the latter engraved on his stone after he died on 9th March, 1861, aged 82.

"In music skilled, he took for many years In the church choir a part in sacred song; And let us hope that when the Lord appears He may be found amongst the faithful throng"

In times of excesses it is surprising to find that prominent Church members were also publicans. The above Joel Hobson kept a respectable public house at Mortomley, whilst it had almost become tradition for the parish clerk to keep the George and Dragon and for the sexton to keep the White Bear. F. S. Hague.

Contact Numbers for Local Groups 282

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 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 - 5.45 - 7.00 pm Shane Porteous shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane) Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Leader - Bryony Hemming Tel. 07983 719155

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

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some Sundays and weekdays. Please contact Steve Fletcher if you wish to play or learn. Secretary – Steve Fletcher 245 2406 e-mail – fletcher177@hotmail.com www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk

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

Useful Contacts

<u>Vicar</u> E-mail: tim.gill@sheffield.angli	Revd Tim Gill can.org	257 0002	
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Ann Hackett Sue Harland Tom Proctor Michael Waldron	246 7159 245 0006 246 0373 246 3091	
<u>Readers:</u>	Pat Clarke Stephanie Dale	257 7191 245 2392	
Pastoral Workers:	Pat Wood	246 5086	
<u>Church Office:</u> Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm		245 0106	
Church Choir Practice in Church Currently Suspended			
Music Group Practice in Church Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746	
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pmContact: Stephanie Hartshorne245 9		245 9435	
Ecclesfield Ladies Group in Gatty Hall Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron		245 5492	
Bell Ringers meet in Church BelfryTuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Phil Hirst286 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: <i>tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org</i>			
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