

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine April 2022

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

In April we turn from Lent, the season of preparation to Easter, the heart of the Christian faith.

On **Sunday 3rd April** we welcome children for **Baptism** at **12 noon**.

On **Monday 4th April** the **PCC** will meet at **7.30pm** in Church.

On **Tuesday 5th April** I will be meeting the wardens at 9am for our regular meeting, followed at 10am by a meeting to choose hymns for May.

The final part of the **Lent Course** will be on **Wed 6th April at 7.30pm** in church.

On **Saturday 9th April 9am Prayer Breakfast** - Breakfast begins at 9am and Prayers start at about 9.30am.

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday, 10th April**. At 10am we will celebrate with an All-Age Eucharist.

On the first three days of **Holy Week**, Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th **Morning Prayer** will be said at **9am** in Church, with a short reflection. The service will last for about half an hour - All welcome!

Maundy Thursday, 14th April 9.30am Mid-week Eucharist and **7.30pm Eucharist** to commemorate the Last Supper.

Good Friday 15th April 10am All Age Worship at the Cross and at **12 noon to 3pm** Three Hours' Meditation. **Please note** the Coffee Shop will be closed

On **Easter Day, Sunday 17th April at 10am** Easter Eucharist and 6.30pm Evening Worship.

Tim will be on Annual Leave Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd April.

Please note there will be no mid-week Eucharist on Thursday 21st April.

On **Sunday 24th April** we are pleased to be invited to host a Civic Service as part of our Sunday worship at **10am**. We will welcome members of the Parish Council to give thanks for the out-going chair of the Parish Council.

Wednesday 27th April 4pm in Church - **Soul Sanctuary**, Meditation and Contemplative prayer for beginners.

On **Saturday 30th April** there are two weddings in Church at 12noon and 3pm.

God bless,
Tim.



Clicking on images and links in the online magazine may tell you more...

Front Cover – A basket of Pysanky - Ukrainian Easter eggs, decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax-resist method. The word pysanka comes from the verb pysaty, "to write" or "to inscribe," as the designs are not painted on, but written (inscribed) with beeswax. <https://youtu.be/L1xxHKOaZlo>

Back Cover – Ecclesfield Priory Players – Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue S'il Vous Plaît

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Prayer for the Month

*Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen***

Easter Day is the heart and soul of the Christian faith. Without Easter there would be no Church, without Easter there would be no Christianity. Without Easter Jesus would simply be yet another poor innocent victim of powerful and wicked people.

On Easter morning we will enter Church. There will be no lights on, no candles lit. Then, at the back of the Church we will light the Easter candle and declare that Christ is risen, that the moral and spiritual chaos and bleakness that engulfed Him on the Cross did not triumph. Instead death and sin and evil are defeated once and for all.

Easter is hope breaking into a despairing world; and it is a message that we need this year more than ever. After two years of Covid and the restricted lives that we are still leading; after seeing an innocent, democratic country being invaded and its population terrorised by and aggressive neighbour, it looks very much as if evil and chaos still have the upper hand.

But Easter is the start of a new world; it is the beginning of a revolution. Because of Jesus, His death and resurrection, everything has changed, as the collect puts it, God is making “all things new in Him.”

Easter is the beginning of a new world. A world in which evil is defeated, and death is no more. It is a world in which we see and experience the justice we long for, a world in which our tears are wiped away and broken hearts are mended.

This new world began on Easter Day, when Jesus was raised to new life, still carrying in His body the scars of His passion. Right at the beginning of his biography of Jesus St John in the famous introduction to his Gospel wrote, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.”

The light of Jesus love continued to shine even as He was betrayed and put on trial, as He was beaten and crucified. The forces of evil did all that they could to Him, and still His light shines, and it always will.

Easter is hope breaking into a world of despair.

May the hope of Christ fill our hearts this Easter; may His light shine in us to give us hope and through us to bring hope to others. **Amen**

Mothers' Union

We held our monthly meeting on 2nd March in the Gatty Hall. After notices and a short service led by Pat Blackburn we enjoyed a very informative talk, along with slides and short films, about MAF. MAF stands for Mission Aviation Fellowship.

MAF came into being after the second world war when a group of RAF men dreamed of helping people in the most isolated regions of the world.

After fundraising, a small light aircraft was purchased in 1948, and two pilots set out to find how humanitarian aid and Christian fellowship could be brought to the remotest places in Africa.

MAF now operates 131 aircraft across the world: taking medicines, doctors and nurses to some of the poorest and remotest places on earth. During the current pandemic they have helped in the delivery of covid vaccines. They transport adults and children to hospital, when to travel by unmade roads could result in poor outcomes. Roads in some areas are almost non-existent.

MAF works with all the main relief charities throughout the world. A MAF plane takes off somewhere in the world every four minutes, bringing help, relief, aid and fellowship to the most isolated peoples.

I can't do justice to all that they do in this short article, so I would encourage you, if able, to look them up online. <https://www.maf-uk.org/>

Next Meeting is on Wednesday 6th April at 1.30 in the Gatty Hall, when we are having a talk from the Police about fraud. Everyone is welcome.

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God in The Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Giotto. Chapel, Padua.

'In a grove lit only by a kiss'

Holy Week, as its name tells us, is the most important, holiest week in the Church's year, when we follow Jesus from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to Calvary and to the garden of the tomb. As we make that journey each year, we are not just remembering past events. We are celebrating how eternity touched Jerusalem in that first Holy Week and how eternity can touch our lives now.

To create that impact and that realisation, the week is brim-full of colour and variety in its worship, full of action and movement, full of processions and music. But we might think it is a week with very little silence.



Online interactive view - Click on image for a
360 Deg scrolling view of the chapel

<https://www.haltadefinizione.com/visualizzat-ore/opera/cappella-degli-scrovegni-giotto-di-bondone#scroll>

Yet the silences are there if we look at the Gospels closely. We enter an upper room and catch our breath when Jesus announces a betrayer. Peter denies our Lord, a cock crows, and a bleak stillness falls on that scene. In the palace Jesus stands accused, no words are spoken, and the governor wonders in the silence. And there is silence by the cross until the ninth hour. The silence does fall during Holy Week, punctuating the crises of these tense days. It is conveyed with dramatic force in this Gethsemane scene: Peter Firth's poem describes it as 'a grove lit only by a kiss.' The painting is by Giotto, 'The Kiss of Judas,' and is part of an amazing series of frescoes he painted for the Arena Chapel in Padua from 1305-06.

At first glance it is a scene of frenzied activity: burning torches wave in the sky, weapons are wielded, and a ram's horn blown. The cohort of soldiers advance on Jesus, and Peter tries to defend Him by cutting off a soldier's ear in his anger. One of the religious leaders points to Jesus in the centre of the painting.

And it is there that the tragic stillness falls as our eyes focus on the eyes of Jesus: that steady, discomforting gaze into the eyes of Judas the betrayer. Judas' cloak seems to engulf Jesus, but it cannot blot out the look of our Lord.

The face of Judas is troubled, and the look of Jesus seems to burrow deep into that anxiety, beneath the surface into his heart.

In Holy Week they are eyes that look out to us. The face of Jesus is turned in our direction, saying, 'Yes, you may follow Me in the heady excitement of Palm Sunday. But will you also follow Me into this garden, on the way of My cross to the foot of Calvary, and beyond to the empty tomb of Easter morning?'

Image reprinted by kind permission of the Arena Padua

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish. By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe. The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Thought for the Month

I am very pleased to be able to report that Sam Ellmore, who will be ordained Deacon at the ordinations in Sheffield Cathedral on Sunday 26th June, will be licensed as Curate at St Mary's. He and his family will be with us for three years.

He will actually be licensed to both St Mary's and St Mark's Grenoside. His appointment means that I will be licensed as Oversight Minister at St Mark's, to work alongside their Focal Ministers and the leadership team, before Sam's ordination.

I am looking forward to working with Sam and also with the team at St Mark's. It will mean changes in my work and it will mean changes for St Mary's.

It is very important that we commit to two things as these changes approach.

Firstly, that we commit to prayer. Our life and worship and ministry; our outreach and evangelism will only bear fruit if they flow from prayer. I invite you to come along to the Prayer Breakfasts every second Saturday from 9am. After Easter there will be a time each week when Church will be open for prayer. Also, after Easter we will begin to re-build the prayer ministry at St Mary's.

Prayer reminds us that St Mary's is Christ's Church and that our mission is God's mission. Prayer keeps us dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

My second appeal is for more leaders from the body of the Church. Currently we have only three wardens. We need four. Please pray about this. We also need new members for the PCC, especially from among those at St Mary's who are in the younger age group. Simply put the more people involved in the leadership of St Mary's the lighter the work will be.

We also need more people to help lead worship, to teach and preach in the services.

What is God, the God who raised Jesus from death, the God who pours out the Holy Spirit, calling, equipping and empowering you for?

If you don't know or if you have never asked that question perhaps that could be the focus of your prayers in the next few weeks.

Easter is about rebirth and it is about hope. After two years of Covid restrictions let us pray for new life in Christ's Church here in the UK and especially here at St Mary's.

We know that the future is secure because the future is in God's hands. So as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection once again we turn in hopeful and confident prayer to the Father, asking for Guidance for ourselves and for St Mary's. We do so confident in His love and purposes for us and for our Church.

God bless you this Easter,

Tim.

Where do you call home?

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

‘Where is it that you call home?’ I wonder how different people would answer that question.

It’s so much gentler than asking ‘where do you come from?’ That question declares that clearly you don’t come from around here so you must be a stranger in these parts.

But the question about home is much deeper and can prompt a range of answers. People can respond by telling you about where they live now, or where they were brought up, or maybe where their family came from.

Author Chine McDonald suggests the question in her book, ‘God is Not a White Man’ (Hodder & Stoughton) and I’m grateful to her. She says, “I love to hear the different answers people give.”

For many people, the answer will be complex. All of us have roots in several places, with relatives whose homes are many miles away, and possibly across oceans.

Fridge magnets that say home is where the Wi-Fi recognises you, or ‘where they have to take you in’, widely miss the point.

Just now, many parts of the UK are welcoming British Nationals from Hong Kong, families who have left the former colony after the Chinese government introduced laws severely restricting human rights.

It’s been good to see local churches helping to welcome the men, women and children who have crossed continents under the UK government’s resettlement scheme.

The Hebrew Scriptures encouraged God’s people to remember that they were once strangers in foreign lands, and to welcome those from afar.

In the gospels, Jesus underlines the importance of loving your neighbour, as you love yourself. He called on His followers to make hospitality one of their core values. It’s a way that we open our lives to others.

I’ve called Hertfordshire home for more than 30 years but hold a special place for the part of West London where I was brought up, and I still support the local football team. Family research reveals that my surname derives from Dorset.

So where’s home? It’s the place where I can feel at home, where I am known and where I can be accepted without pretence.

It’s my prayer that all churches may be places of welcome and hospitality for everyone.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Sunday 6th March

William Hector Segen Boocock

Sunday 6th March

Alana Violet Garfitt Brown

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

Funerals

Thursday 17th March

June Renee Hunt

Tuesday 22nd March

Joyce Laycock

Monday 28th March

Hetty Hempshall

Wednesday 30th March

Clifford Hodgkinson (Memorial Service)

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



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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.

The Wonder and the Sorrow of PCR Tests

PCR tests are a fact of life for most of us at the moment. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people's use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

The swab that you, or someone else, pokes down your throat and up your nose goes into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid is then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test is actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converts any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA are then made using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process works it means that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone may be about to become quite ill.

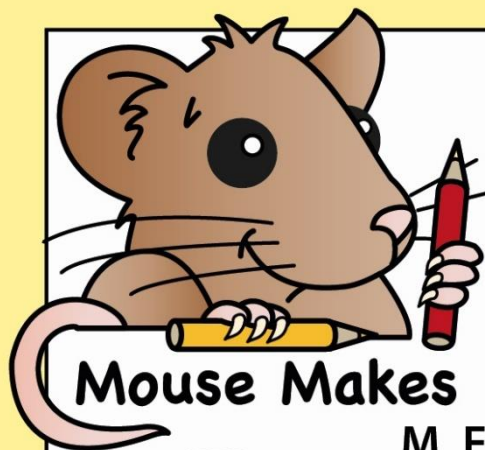
Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Perhaps you sell a fantastic product that most people in the world can't afford. Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-to-day lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

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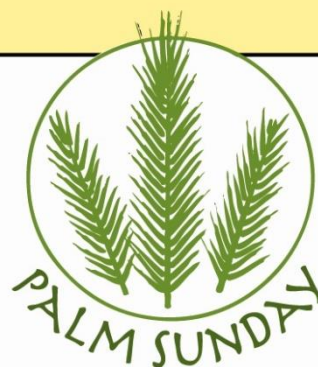
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HAPPY EASTER!

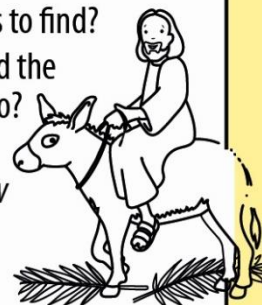
Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come
again!



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?

What did the crowd do?

Read
Matthew
21:1-11



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75



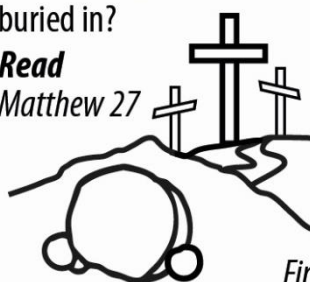
What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?

What time did Jesus die?

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read

Matthew 27



What did Jesus do at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?

What had happened to Jesus?

Read

Matthew 28



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L R G O D H A O S H A
R O B E A E N V T R S
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C R O W N N D R I O Q
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B O D Y E N A I L S A
S P A L M S T S K T K
C R U C I F Y E I O E
D A E B R E A D S M B
K I N G O L O T S B U
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S E A S T E R O A D Y

Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA

PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD

KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS

ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS

TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING

MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL

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Editor's Humour

Online readers - don't forget to click on the pictures and links to learn more!

When a kid says "Daddy, I want Mommy" that's the kid version of **"I'd like to speak to your supervisor!"**

One for the Mathematicians - Wife of [Pi](#) at a marriage guidance session – "He's irrational and he goes on, and on, and on!"

The word [Queue](#) is ironic. It's just "Q" with a bunch of silent letters waiting in line...

"When your mother asks, **'Do you want a piece of advice?'** it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." - [Erma Bombeck](#)

[Eggs](#) are fantastic for a fitness diet. If you don't like the taste, just add cocoa, flour, sugar, butter, baking powder and bake at 180°C for 30 minutes."

"I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance: waiting for the bathroom." - [Bob Hope](#)

Understanding Engineers Take Two

To the optimist, the glass is
Half full

To the pessimist, the glass is
Half empty

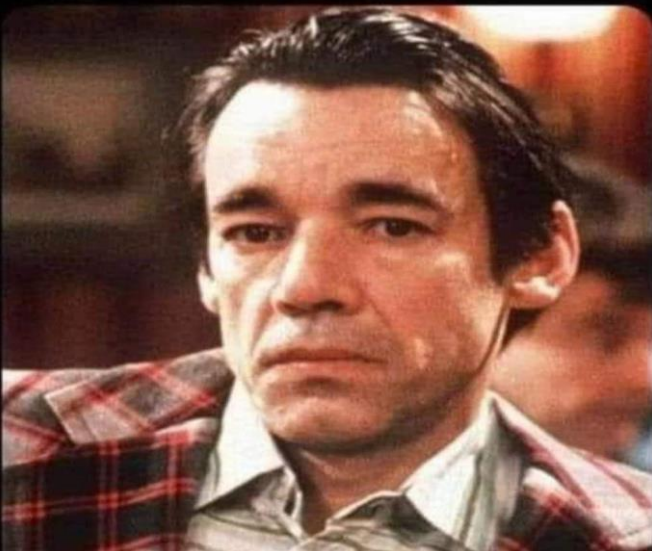
To the engineer, the glass is
Twice as big as it needs to be



Her: That smells
expensive, what is it?
Him: Unleaded 95



"Fuel prices going up
don't affect me.. I only
ever put £20 in" .



Saints of the month - 17th April: Easter faith in atheist Russia

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

27th April: Zita, the long-suffering servant girl of Lucca

If you have ever been in trouble for simply doing good, then [Zita](#) is the saint for you. Born in 1218 to poor but devout parents in Monsagrati, Zita was sent at the age of 12 to work as a servant for the rich Fatinelli family in nearby Lucca.

Zita was pious, generous and hard-working. Oddly enough, all three traits got her into trouble. For one thing, the other servants hated her for her devotion to prayer and to doing her work perfectly. When Zita said that 'a servant is not holy if she is not busy,' they were furious, and bullied her.

The Fatinellis were also annoyed with Zita. They had discovered that she felt such compassion for the poor of the town, that she would often give them gifts of their food. So, they took to beating her.

Then came the day that Zita was supposed to be baking – but she left it halfway through in order to go and help someone in dire need. The other servants told the Fatinellis, and everyone rushed down to the kitchen, expecting to find disaster. Instead, the story goes that they found an angel, finishing the baking.

Well, how can you be angry with someone whom the angels help? It was a wake-up call for both servants and family, who began to feel ashamed of themselves. Soon Zita's patient endurance and consistent goodness won her their deep respect and increasing affection. She was placed in charge of the household.

As the years passed, Zita became locally famous for helping the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. Soon after her death a popular cult sprang up. Chapels were named in her honour as far afield as Palermo and Ely. In England she is known as Sitha, and she has traditionally been invoked by housewives and domestic servants, especially (for some reason) when they lose their house-keys.

12th April - International Day for Street Children

The International Day for Street Children, first launched on 12th April 2011, is a response to the desperate need of hundreds of millions of children world-wide who are forced to live or work on the streets.

The UN admits that although there are millions of such children, official figures are virtually non-existent. Tragically, these children are virtually invisible, living without rights and protection on some of the most dangerous streets in the world.

Record levels of inequality, violence, migration, war and natural disasters have caused the problem. The children run away to escape abusive, dysfunctional homes and end up on the streets after being displaced or trafficked.

Toybox is a Christian charity which has worked with street children, first in Latin America and now in Asia and Africa, for more than 25 years. "We want to help children marginalised and abused by those who should be protecting them," the charity says.

Toybox began out of one Christian couple's compassion for the children they saw suffering on the streets of Latin America. "Today, we continue to act, motivated by that same Christian faith, to see a world in which no child is forced to live or work on the streets."

If you would like to support Toybox, please go to: <https://toybox.org.uk/support>

The advertisement features a central image of a white roller shutter door installed on a stone wall. A hand is shown holding a black remote control, pointing it at the door. The background is a light green gradient. Text and logos are overlaid on the image.

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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

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The new season starts in April and let's hope for some good weather this year. As we look to the new season, we have managed to retain all playing members from last year's campaign and have strengthened both 1st and 2nd teams with Tim Smith signing from Worksop and Will Turner from Upper Haugh. We are also looking forward to the addition of Young Australian Ben Tracey who will be added to the first team squad. Ben is travelling to the UK with his girlfriend Ellie from Penrith in New South Wales. Our captain James Moorhouse is returning from his season on the sidelines last year as he recovered from a shoulder operation. The junior section continues to grow, with 5 junior teams playing in the 2022 season - U9s, U11s, U13s, U15s and U18s. With many of these youngsters already playing in our senior sides, we look to keep the conveyor belt of juniors flowing.

Finally the newest section within the club was the formation of our ladies team, who last season competed for the first time in their soft ball league and narrowly missed out on Finals day losing in the semis. They have played in a winter league too and under the leadership of Kathryn Cave, and look to continue and grow for the upcoming season.

Spectators are welcome to use all the facilities in the pavilion where drinks and snacks are available.

Fixtures at Baxter Field, Cinder Hill Lane (12 noon start)

16 th April	1 st XI	v	Sheffield Collegiate 1 st XI
23 rd April	2 nd XI	v	Oughtibridge 1 st XI
30 th April	2 nd XI	v	South Kirby 1 st XI
7 th May	1 st XI	v	Appleby Frodingham 1 st XI
14 th May	2 nd XI	v	Rotherham 1 st XI

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592

whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk

Andrew Robinson

The best position in which to pray

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

Remembering Samuel Morse of Morse Code

Editor: Tim Lenton considers the founder of the famous Morse Code

Samuel Morse died 150 years ago, on 2nd April 1872. The American artist and inventor is best known for developing a commercial single-wire telegraph system - and the Morse Code, with his friend Alfred Vail.

He was born in 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, the son of Calvinist preacher and geographer Jedidiah Morse. He found a great deal of interest in lectures on electricity, which was then poorly understood. His parents were somewhat disconcerted that he also enjoyed painting miniature portraits.

It was in 1832, while returning by ship from Europe, that Morse had the idea of a commercial electric telegraph – after hearing a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet. The idea of an electric telegraph had been put forward in 1753, but Morse believed it could be put into action. His eagerness stemmed partly from an early tragedy. His first wife Lucretia was taken seriously ill in 1825 while he was working on a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette in Washington, but the message took ages to reach him by horse messenger. By the time he got home to Connecticut, his wife was not only dead, but buried.

By 1838 he and Vail had developed the system of dots and dashes that became known throughout the world as the Morse Code, and by 1844 the first telegraph line in the United States, from Baltimore to Washington, was completed, and he sent the first message: “What hath God wrought?” This had been suggested to him by Annie Ellworth, the teenage daughter of the commissioner of patents.

In 1871 there was a huge celebration of the telegraph in Central Park, New York, and Morse sent the final nationwide message on the day, part of which read: “Glory to God in the Highest; on Earth peace, goodwill to men.”

How to have some happiness this April

‘April is the cruellest month,’ wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can’t enjoy anything. According to the ‘science of happiness,’ fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for ‘small, fleeting moments of fulfilment’. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are ‘joyful vignettes’ which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: “Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn’t have to be as overwhelming as it first seems.”

The Gardening Year – April

Tender vegetables - Tender vegetables include - Tomatoes peppers, and aubergines. Mediterranean plants that require a lot of sunshine and warmth and don't tolerate harsh conditions, if you are growing any of these plants use growbags, and buy your plants in.

Care of tomatoes - Tomatoes require a regular and vigilant watering, they wilt easily, and insufficient watering can lead to Blossom End Rot (a calcium deficiency if you over water your plants), if you do over water your plants, the fruits can split or end up tasteless. Tomatoes are hungry plants which require high potash feed once the fruits have started forming.

Beans and Sweetcorn - beans and sweetcorn traditionally take up lots of room in the garden. Runner beans for example grow tall and require a good rooting to stay firmly in the ground. With compact dwarf varieties now available, you can grow certain varieties of beans and sweetcorn successfully in large containers.

Root vegetables - traditionally grown in long rows on an allotment, you might be surprised to learn that most root vegetables grow well in containers, you can buy baby beetroot, and short rooted carrots while radishes are also a good choice for containers. If you are growing carrots mix one spade of grit sand with enough compost to a good size pot. The variety I use is called Nantes No 2.

Potatoes - potatoes are one of the simplest and most exciting crops to grow. There is nothing like rooting through a container to find new potatoes (even for experienced gardeners) If you are to grow potatoes in pots, use only first varieties, Varieties finish growing before potato blight becomes a problem. The variety I use is called Swift, as this variety only grows short tops, ideal for growing in pots you need a pot to take at least 15 ltr of compost, fill your pot, then push one seed potato down to the bottom of the pot. Do Not water until the Potato tops are seen, then only water lightly. When the tops are 6-8 inch high you can water normally.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – April

Vegetables - Asparagus, Broccoli, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Rocket, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress, Wild Nettle

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs - Basil, Chives, Dill, Sorrel

Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

Fish – Cockles, Crab, Langoustine, Lobster, Plaice, Prawns, Salmon, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Whitebait

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Ukrainian Easter egg with church motif

Legends

The Hutsuls—a group of Rusyns who live in the Carpathian Mountains around western Ukraine—believe that the fate of the world depends upon the pysanka. As long as the egg writing custom continues, the world will exist. If, for any reason, this custom is abandoned, evil—in the shape of a horrible serpent who is forever chained to a cliff— will overrun the world. Each year the serpent sends out his minions to see how many pysanky have been written. If the number is low the serpent's chains are loosened and he is free to wander the earth causing havoc and destruction. If, on the other hand, the number of pysanky has increased, the chains are tightened and good triumphs over evil for yet another year.



Newer legends blended folklore and Christian beliefs and firmly attached the egg to the Easter celebration. One legend concerns the Virgin Mary. It tells of the time Mary gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross. She entreated them to be less cruel to her son and she wept. The tears of Mary fell upon the eggs, spotting them with dots of brilliant colour.

Another legend tells of when Mary Magdalene went to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. She had with her a basket of eggs to serve as a repast. When she arrived at the sepulchre and uncovered the eggs, the pure white shells had miraculously taken on a rainbow of colours.

A common legend tells of Simon the peddler, who helped Jesus carry his cross on the way to Calvary. He had left his goods at the side of the road, and, when he returned, the eggs had all turned into intricately decorated pysanky.

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

C	O	S	M	I	C		T	H	O	M	A	S
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ERIC EYRE

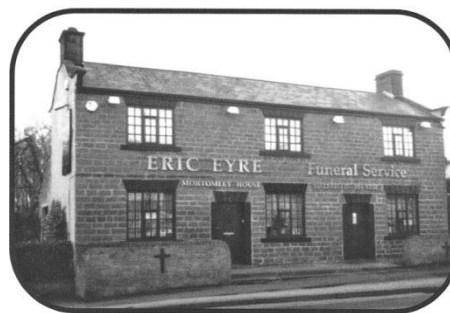
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It is time to eat Sea Trout

The wild sea trout, or salmon trout, bears little resemblance to the inexpensive but unexceptional farmed trout sold in supermarkets. Its time spent at sea means that it is closer to wild salmon in colour, flavour and texture but with a less prohibitive price. The sea trout is native to European and Eurasian waters. It has been successfully introduced to numerous American, African and Australasian regions over the past century.

Sea trout, or *Salmo trutta trutta*, is an anadromous (it migrates up-river from the sea to spawn) form of the species that includes the brown trout. It is silvery grey with black or reddish spots and pink flesh from its diet of shrimps and other pink-fleshed crustaceans. It is also a good source of omega-3 essential fatty acids, which are linked with reduced risk of heart disease and some cancers.



Wild sea trout is sold at some supermarkets' fish counters but is more readily available from fishmongers and fresh fish market stalls. As with all fish, fresh specimens will be bright-eyed and red-gilled with a fresh sea aroma. A bronze sheen to the skin is usually a good sign. If possible buy sea trout on the day you plan to eat it. Ask your fishmonger to gut, clean and (if necessary) fillet your sea trout. Sea trout can be used as a substitute in any trout or salmon recipe. Some of the UK's best sea trout are found in Wales where they are known as sewin.

Sea trout, New Potatoes and Asparagus traybake with Dill Mustard sauce

Ingredients

Baby new potatoes 1 kg
Asparagus 400g
Olive oil 2 tbsp
Sea trout, Farmed trout or Salmon 4 fillets

Dill Mustard Sauce

Dijon mustard 2 tbsp
Soft light brown sugar 1 tbsp
White wine vinegar 2 tbsp
Vegetable oil 4 tbsp
Pinch of salt
Dill chopped to make 2 tbsp, plus extra to serve

Method

Step 1 - Heat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Cook the potatoes in a pan of salted boiling water for 3 minutes. Add the asparagus and cook for a further 2 minutes. Drain really well then run the asparagus under cold water and put aside. Toss the potatoes with the olive oil and season generously. Spread them over a large, non-stick baking tray or dish and roast for 15-20 minutes or until they're starting to brown and almost tender. Nestle in the trout and asparagus, and season again. Roast for another 10-12 minutes or until the trout is just cooked.

Step 2 - Meanwhile, whisk together the mustard, sugar, vinegar, oil and salt, then stir through the dill. To serve, drizzle the sauce over the trout, asparagus and potatoes, and scatter with a little more dill just before serving.

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Chapeltown & District Probus Club



March was the club AGM and review of the year – or past 2 years in view of COVID restrictions. The club has been successful in a period when normal meetings were suspended from April 2020 through to September 2021 with the Zoom system utilised to carry on having virtual meetings and presentations. Donations were reduced in 2021 but generous gifts making up to the original subscriptions were made by many members leaving the club in good health. The annual membership going forward will be £30 recognising increased costs for speaker travelling, new HSBC bank charges and other increases.

At the meeting Robert Dunn stood down as Chairman after two years rather than the usual one and thanks were given to him for his wise leadership for the past 2 years. Andrew Robinson took over as Chairman for the next year. The club offers friendship and companionship to all members, mainly those who are semi or fully retired, together with an interesting and varied list of speakers and good lunches at Wortley Hall. New members are always welcome and if you might be interested, why not come as a guest to see what it is like and join us for lunch?

If you are interested or would like to join a meeting as a guest, please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

Upcoming meetings at 10.00am in Grenoside Community Centre (followed by lunch at Wortley Hall):-

13th April – Stephen Gay “The Lost Railway from Penistone to Sheffield”

11th May – Ian Webb “Alaskan Trail”

8th June – Jeff Jacklin “Retirement”

Contact details: E-Mail chapeltown.probus@gmail.com

Website <https://chapeltown-probus.org.uk/>

Andrew Robinson

Crossword Puzzle

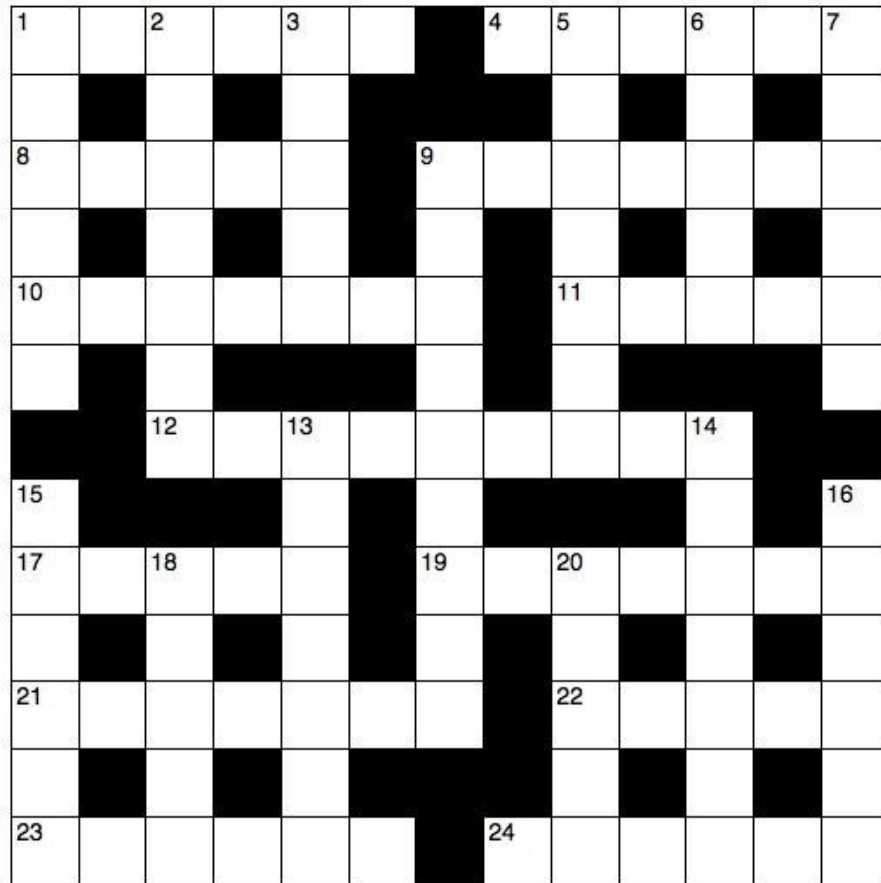
Clues Across

- 1** 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) **3** A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9** In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10** Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11** Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12** Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14** 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17** Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19** What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22** The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23** For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24** Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25** Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

Clues Down

- 1** 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2** Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4** 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5** An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6** Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film **starring** Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7** 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8** One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13** Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15** 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16** Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18** 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20** Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21** 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

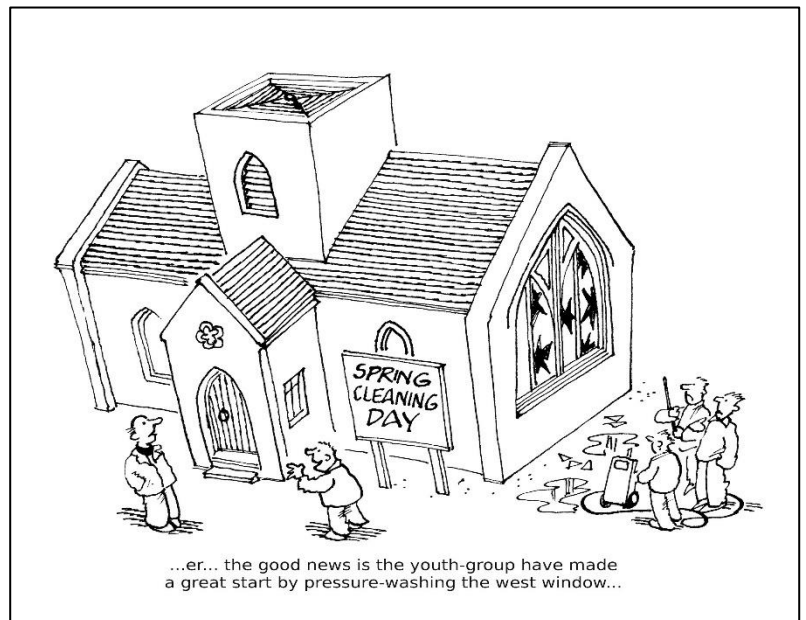
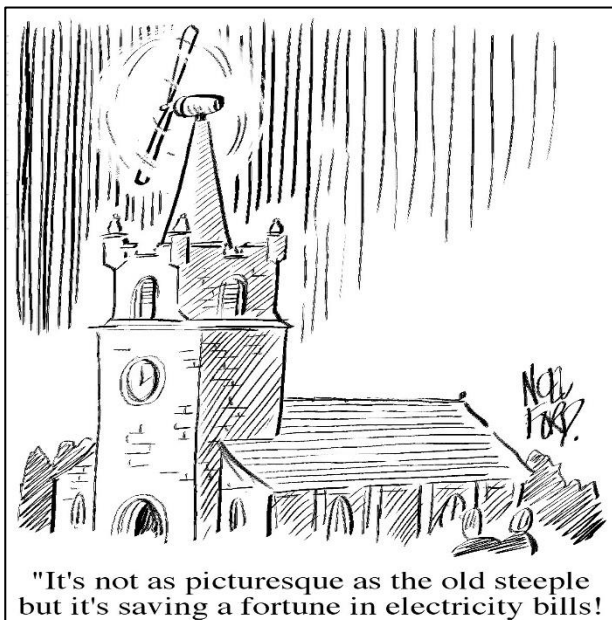
Solution is on Page 23



Directions

The Revd Billy Graham told of an encounter early in his ministry, when he had arrived for a preaching mission in a small town. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was. After the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him, and added: "Son, if you come along to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy looked doubtful. "The way to Heaven? But you can't even find the post office."



Prayers and Poems Page

Easter Prayer 2022 - By Daphne Kitching

Dear Almighty, All-powerful Father God,
You brought light and hope out of darkness and despair. You brought life out of death when you raised Jesus that first Easter Day. Thank you that the tomb is forever empty and that Jesus is forever alive!
No matter what is going on, no matter how little we understand, help us to hold on to the Easter truth – Jesus is risen! He is alive today and in Him we can put our trust, completely and confidently.
Because of Jesus, death is defeated. Because of Jesus, the best is yet to be. Love wins! Hallelujah! We praise you, Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

He too - By Nigel Beeton

When the blackest clouds enfold us
When the strongest winds may blow;
When our dearest friends have sold us
And we have nowhere to go,
In the depths of great despairing
Through the sharpest jabs of pain
There we find our Father, caring
Giving shelter from the rain.

For He too, one dreadful Friday
Saw His most beloved Son
On a cross, raised by a highway
Naked, bleeding, cruelly hung.
Yes, He too has felt the starkness
And He too has been betrayed
For He too has known the darkness
And the price which must be paid.

As you weep, reach out your fingers
Feel His gentle, loving hand,
Feel the care just He can bring us
For your life is known and planned.
He too knows the path before us
And He too has fought the fight
Only Jesus can assure us
On our journey to the light.

That Day

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

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

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

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

By Megan Carter

An Easter prayer - Karth Barth was the prominent Protestant theologian of his day. Much of his life was devoted to resisting the Nazis.

O Lord God, our Father, You are the light that can never be put out; and now You give us a light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the love that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster...to the wholeness of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.

Contact Numbers for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm
Leader - Debbie
Tel: 0786 047 1793

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson
Tel: 0798 344 2742

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 - Emma Addy
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 246 1095

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)
Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm
Leader - Bryony Hemming
25thecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 0782 411 2584
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some
Sundays and weekdays.
Please make contact if you wish to play or
learn. Secretary: Joe Webster:
whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk
Website:
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month
in Grenoside Community Centre
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow
chapeltown.probus@gmail.com
We are now on face to face see
www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk

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



Useful Contacts



Vicar

Revd Tim Gill

257 0002

E-mail: ttim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org

Churchwardens:

Ann Hackett

246 7159

Jo Hawksworth

246 2852

Michael Waldron

246 3091

Vacancy

Readers:

Pastoral Workers:

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

3.00pm on the first Friday of each month

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: ttim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org

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

Magazine e-mail stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com



ECCLESFIELD PRIORY PLAYERS PRESENT



Chase Me Up



Farnsdale Avenue,



S'il Vous Plaît!



By David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin, Jnr

Produced by Angela Platts

By arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd

Tickets on Sale from 16th April - tickets@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

Tuesday 10th - Saturday 14th May 2022

Curtain at 7.30pm

Tickets £9.00 Concessions £8.00 (Tues & Weds only)

**E.P.P.i.C Theatre, Well Lane, High Street,
Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9TP**

Tel: (0114) 2402624



@EppicEpp



Ecclesfield Priory Players Productions

www.ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

email: info@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

Charity Number 518074