

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine December 2022 - January 2023

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# First Words

As always, the focus This December is Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus.

On **Friday 2nd December at 7pm** in Church there will be a **Christmas Concert by the Grenoside Singers**. Tickets are £5 for adults, children free. Proceeds will be shared between Church and **Homeless And Rootless at Christmas (HARC)**.

On **Sunday 4th December** there will be **baptisms** in Church following the 10am service.

On **Saturday 10th December at 9am** we have our monthly **Prayer Breakfast**. We start with food at 9am and prayers begin at about 9:30am. We aim to finish by 10:15am. If you have never been before why not come along this month?

On **Sunday 11th December at 10am** we have our monthly **All Age Celebration**, and at **4pm** we meet in the Churchyard for Community **Carols round the Tree**.

On **Sunday 18th December at 4pm** in Church we hold our very popular **Christingle Service** raising funds for The Children's Society.

Then on **Monday 19th December** the **Local Carols** will be sung at St Mary's. Weather permitting we will meet in the Churchyard at **7pm** and aim to move into Church for 7:45pm.

On **Wednesday 21st December at 7pm** there will be a short reflective service in Church for the **longest night**.

On **Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December**, at **4pm** we have our **Crib Service** - a short and simple service aimed at all ages, but especially families with young children. Then at **6.30pm** we celebrate Christmas with our **Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight**.

This Year **Christmas Day** falls on a Sunday and we will give thanks for Christ's birth with an **All Age Communion service at 10am**.

On **New Year's Day, Sunday 1st Jan 2023 at 10am** there will be a simple service of **Holy Communion**.

Please note there will not be an evening Service on Sunday 25th December or Sunday 1st January.

God bless you and have a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Tim



Front Cover – Christmas Market - Kontraktova square in Kyiv, Ukraine (Square of Contracts)

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Back Cover - Christmas Services

# Andrew Jones

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On behalf of Tim and the finance team we would like to thank you all for your generous giving and donations during the year. This has helped greatly towards the upkeep and running of the church

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas Time and all the very best for  
2023





## On the Feast of Stephen - 26th December

Everyone knows that it was on the feast of Stephen that 'good king Wenceslas looked on'. After all, it's in a Christmas carol - but why? There's nothing about Christmas in it: a splendid young page who rustled up some flesh, wine and logs, an old man out in the snow ('deep and crisp and even') and a kindly monarch. But Christmas?

The clue is in 'the feast of Stephen', which falls on 26th December, or 'Boxing Day', as we know it. That, too, has nothing to do with Christmas, beyond the fact that in the past people put a contribution in tradesmen's boxes as a kind of Christmas present for their services during the year.

The Stephen whose feast day falls on the day after Christmas was the first Christian martyr. (You can read his story in the book of Acts). He was a member of the church in Jerusalem in its very early days, and soon found himself involved with six others in administering the allocation of food to those in need.



The apostles, who were the leaders of the church, felt that it wasn't appropriate for them to abandon preaching and 'serve tables', so they selected these seven to do the job for them. Stephen, however, quickly revealed hidden gifts as an eloquent spokesman for the Christian cause.

The Temple authorities, who had already had trouble with the apostles, were soon alerted to this new and hitherto unknown evangelist. They decided to make an example of him, thus firing a warning shot, as it were, across the bows of the apostles themselves. So, they arrested Stephen and accused him of speaking against the two central elements of their religion - the 'holy place' (the Temple) and 'the customs Moses handed down to us' (the Law). It's always dangerous to criticise a monument or a custom!

Given the right to defend himself, Stephen instead launched into an eloquent and at times biting account of Jewish history, culminating in the accusation that they had committed the worst possible sin by killing the Messiah. Inflamed by his words, his hearers abandoned any pretence of legal impartiality, rushing towards him and dragging him out of the city to a place where they began to stone him to death. Stephen, the rank and file Christian, died under a hail of rocks for claiming that Mary's Son was the promised Messiah.

That is most probably the reason why the first martyr is honoured on the day after we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. It's a bit like the myrrh in the gifts of the Wise Men - a reminder, as we celebrate, that the bitter shadow of a cross is never far away from this story.

# Mothers' Union partners campaign against domestic abuse

Mothers' Union has teamed up with Women's Aid in a campaign to help draw attention to end domestic abuse.

The campaign aims to highlight the fact that 1.6 million women in England experience domestic abuse every year. Three women are killed each fortnight by a current or ex-partner. And one in every seven children will have to live with domestic violence at some point in their childhood.

As Bev Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union, says: "It's what happens behind closed doors which is so very worrying. Domestic abuse takes many forms. As well as the bruises and violence, which is absolutely shocking, it's restricting access to money, it's tracking your partner online, it's controlling who they speak to. It's very much about exercising power over those who are closest to you. Of course, the longer it continues, the more impact it has on any children in a relationship as well.

"God created man and woman as equal. He teaches us to love one another, and those core principles should lead us all to be in healthy relationships and help others to be so too."

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/partnerships/womensaid>

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'Let our family look after yours'

# St Paul's Food Bank

I wanted to give you an update about what's happening at the food bank at St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue.

Firstly though I would like to thank you all, so much, for all the generous gifts of food, toiletries and money. These donations make a huge difference so thank you.

We've now been running the food bank for just over 3 1/2 years and have changed and evolved over that time. During lockdown we were able to use all of the hall, but we needed to distribute the bags outside, but once lockdown had finished then clearly, we needed the hall for other activities.

One of the problems we have is lack of space in the hall, this meant we could not provide the hospitality that we would have liked to our beneficiaries. So much so we are in the process of getting a shipping container placed next to the hall for storage.

We were reflecting, our dream is people will not have to use foodbanks. However, we appreciate this is not going to happen any time soon. We are now faced with the cost-of-living crisis and trying to think of ways to provide a warm space for people during the week. We also wanted to provide a holistic approach to help, by trying to tackle some of the reasons why they need to use the food bank. To this end we now have an adviser from Citizens Advice in our food bank every week. We also are negotiating to have an adviser from Shelter. We also occasionally have advisors from Green Doctor and Yorkshire Water. Some of our volunteers are training to become what we call Ambassadors. These ambassadors, have a working knowledge of the benefit system and also other charities and places where the beneficiaries can get help and advice.

A few weeks ago, we met and put all these problems and issues on the table and prayed about them. The upshot being, we've started a new system.

At the food bank, as many of you know, we open on a Friday morning between 11:00am and 1:00pm. Previously due to lack of space and Covid-19 restrictions people queued outside the hall. We made the decision to improve the system. So now, on Thursday morning we open a drop in coffee space from 10am to 11.30am, it is open to the whole of the community. The idea being that lonely people can come and meet other people, volunteers have more time to help beneficiaries, potentially making telephone calls for them, helping them complete forms, and finding out where they can get help for various issues that they might have. It was very important for us to have some sort of spiritual space in that morning. So, for those that want to, we do a short reflection and light touch Bible study. It also gives us the time and space to pray with people.

On a Friday we've reconfigured the space, so that we can have 3 desks helping people register, this also enables us to have meaningful conversations whilst they pack their bags. If they need to see the specialist Citizens Advice we can arrange for that to be done. We've also managed to squeeze in a couple of tables where people can have refreshments before being registered.

We give out between 40 and 60 packs per week which means we're probably feeding over 120 people a week. Citizens Advice have helped people claim benefits which they didn't think they were entitled to, in some cases meaning that they don't have to use the food bank in the future.

Continues on Page 22



# God in The Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at the cartoon for 'The Mackintosh Madonna', which normally hangs in the British Museum.*

## Preparing the Way

This month's drawing is 'The Virgin and Child' by Raphael (1483-1520). Raphael was a talented artist from a very early age, but this drawing belongs to a time when he was in Rome from 1510-12. The finished painting is known as the Mackintosh Madonna, after its last owner.

This drawing, or cartoon, was the first stage in creating that work: it is in black chalk with heightening marks of white. When an artist made an initial drawing like this, he would then prick the cartoon with holes and then sprinkle charcoal powder over the drawing to reproduce the design on the canvas below. The pinholes on this drawing are still clearly visible. Sadly the final painting has been damaged through time, but here in the cartoon we see that first stage: a sensitive and balanced picture of mother and child: Mary warm and caring, Jesus laughing and alive.



During Advent we think of the preparations God made for the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God's work of creation and how He chose a people for His own. Within that people He looked for a holy remnant and then finally a loving heart in the assent of Mary to be the mother of our Lord. These preparatory steps were as vital for our salvation as the artist moving from idea to sketch to the finished work.

Each stage is important; each stage a revelation of life and love. Vasari wrote of Raphael that in his paintings 'the flesh palpitates, the breath comes and goes, every organ lives, and life pulsates everywhere.' Even this preliminary drawing displays that life and vitality. It is a life we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of a child who turns to us, as he does in this work, as a sign of joy and love.

**Editor:** Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, better known as Raphael - an Italian painter and architect of the High Renaissance. His work is admired for its clarity of form, ease of composition, and visual achievement of the Neoplatonic ideal of human grandeur. Together with Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, he forms the traditional trinity of great masters of that period.

Raphael was enormously productive, running an unusually large workshop and, despite his early death at 37, leaving a large body of work. His career falls naturally into three phases and three styles, first described by Giorgio Vasari: his early years in Umbria, then a period of about four years (1504–1508) absorbing the artistic traditions of Florence, followed by his last hectic and triumphant twelve years in Rome, working for two popes and their close associates. Many of his works are found in the Vatican Palace, where the frescoed Raphael Rooms were the central, and the largest, work of his career. The best-known work is The School of Athens in the Vatican Stanza della Segnatura. After his early years in Rome, much of his work was executed by his workshop from his drawings, with considerable loss of quality. He was extremely influential in his lifetime, though outside Rome his work was mostly known from his collaborative printmaking.



# St James the Least of All

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

## On giving the after-dinner speech

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## After dinner humour - Care for Your Mother-in-law

A man, his wife and his mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, 'You can have her shipped home for £5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for £150.'

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, 'Why would you spend £5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to have her buried here and spend only £150?'

The man replied, 'a man died here 2,000 years ago, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance.'

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Creative Writing Group	First Wednesday of the month 6-8pm
Chairobics	Thursdays 11:45 – 12:30pm

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## Thought for the Month

St Luke, in his story of the birth of Jesus, tells us that the angels sang to the shepherds of the birth of the Messiah. This birth, they told them is “good news of great joy for all people” (Luke 2:10). It is good news, not just for some, not just for one people or nation, not just for those who are religious, but for all people.

The theologians in the first centuries of the Church put the meaning of Christmas, of the birth of Jesus in these words: God became man so that men and women could become divine.

Christmas is the story of the love of God for His creation, a love that never gives up, a love that endures. A love that is greater than our sin and stronger than death. Paul in his letters tells us that in Jesus God is reconciling the world to himself.

That is why it is right that the celebration of Christmas goes far, far beyond the walls of the Church. At Christmas we welcome into Church people who we will never see again until the next December - and that's ok.

I think that people who think of themselves as ‘not religious’ celebrate Christmas because the story of Christmas, the story of God coming to us as a tiny, vulnerable child, touches us at a deep level - deeper than our thoughts and beliefs.

Christmas is good news for the world. It tells us that we are not alone and not abandoned. It tells us that no matter what God will not give up on us. It tells us that we are loved.

As we draw to the end of 2022, a year like no other I have experienced, we need to hear again the message of the angels. God has heard our prayers and our cries, and His response is not to send us a message, or to form a committee: in Jesus God comes in person, not just for ‘the world’, but for each and every one of us. Christmas means that God’s love is personal.

At Christmas we discover that we are loved more than we ever imagined. At Christmas God reaches out to us in Jesus. Whatever 2023 holds for us we are not alone.

May you have a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

God bless,  
Tim

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## The Ecclesfield Welfare Charities

I chair some small charitable trusts which exist for the relief of poverty and for educational purposes in the ancient parish of Ecclesfield. In these difficult days if you know of anyone who might welcome a small grant towards heating or to help with the cost of food; or a family who would like help with the cost of school uniform, please ask them to get in touch with me by email: [ttimgill@aol.com](mailto:ttimgill@aol.com)

Thanks,  
Tim

# Mothers Union Meeting - November

## Mother's Union and Artworks

Artworks is a not-for-profit creative arts organisation for adults with learning disabilities and autism. The organisation believes that everyone should have the opportunity to participate fully in arts and culture and to take an active and positive role in the community. They focus on self-belief and individual achievements, to enable people to reach their potential. Michael and Mark came to our November meeting to share with us the latest projects which Artworks is involved with. Michael is the manager for photography and filming, Mark is one of the artists who attends Artworks. The artists have a wide range of opportunities through workshops and supported volunteer placements. These placements help the artists to build workplace skills and can prepare people for work, in a safe and supportive environment. The Art workshops give the artists the opportunity to participate in workshops run by professionals that specialise in different mediums ranging from painting and sculpture to film, photography, animation, and performance. The workshops help the artists learn new techniques and create work, exhibitions and projects. Film and Animation workshops cover a range of technical disciplines and areas of film making practice. The aim is to provide a comprehensive film making experience, so the artists can focus on what appeals to them.

Mark and Michael brought a range of quality Christmas items made by the artists at Artworks which were quickly purchased by our members.

Artworks have premises in Sheffield and Rotherham including one at Soar works Knutton Rd. Events are continuous one is TRASH-ION SHOW on the 26th. January 2023 at Wentworth Woodhouse Rotherham. Sustainable, fashion, music, and art.

I have a personal interest in Artworks and admire how they challenge people's perceptions of someone with a disability. I have seen the quality and diversity which the artists have produced and how people blossom with positive achievement.

***Maureen Lambert.***

## Diary:

**Thursday 1 December 2:00pm** Deanery Advent Carol Service. Bradfield. Lifts available.

**Wednesday 7 December 1:30pm** Gatty Hall. Branch Christmas Party.

**Wednesday 4 January 2023 1:30pm** Gatty Hall. AGM

## Subscriptions:

Subscriptions are due on the 1 January 2023 and will be £24.00. I will be collecting them at our AGM on the 4 January 2023. Cheques please, if possible, made out to St Mary's Ecclesfield Mothers Union. If anyone has a problem with cheques or paying the full amount in one go, please speak to me in confidence. 07944195906. Jennifer Armeson – Treasurer

**Next Year's Annual Gathering** will be Friday 22 September 2023 in York with Evensong in The Minster. Coaches are being planned to leave from Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. More details to follow when available.

# From the Registers

## Baptisms

Sunday 20th November 12 noon

Louie James Grayson - River AJ Boot

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

## Marriages

Saturday 25th November

Kellie Johnson & Graham Cantellow

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

## Funerals

Wednesday 2nd November

Barbara Heeley

Monday 7th November

Diana May Sumner

Tuesday 15th November

Barbara Shaw

Thursday 24th November

Lesley Joan Whitaker

Wednesday 30th November

Anthony Shipley

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

## Diary for January 2023

**Sunday 1st** 10am Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Christmas - No 6:30pm service

**Thursday 5th** 9:30am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 8th** 10am All Age Celebration for Epiphany: 6:30pm Eucharist - 12 noon Baptisms

**Monday 9th** 7:30pm PCC Meeting

**Wednesday 11th** 1:30pm Mothers Union AGM in the Gatty Hall

**Saturday 14th** 9am Prayer Breakfast

**Wednesday 18th** 2pm Meeting to choose hymns and plan services for February - 3pm Wardens Meeting - 7pm Prayer Ministry Team Meeting

**Sunday 22nd** 6:30pm Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 29th** 10am Candlemas Eucharist

Early in 2023, I will be licensed as Oversight Minister at St Mark's Grenoside. I will be working with the two focal ministers and the ministry team alongside the wardens and PCC there.

At St Mary's we will be working towards creating a Focal Ministry Team here to be licensed at some point, probably in 2024. This all means that we will need to have strong leadership here at St Mary's. In the short term we will need to have the full complement of 4 Churchwardens at the next AGM.

Please pray about this. Are you a potential warden or is God putting someone's name on your heart? We also need to begin to ask who are the possible Focal Ministers at St Mary's? There will be change, but if we are led by the Spirit, the change will glorify God!

God bless, Tim



# 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 copyright-free image of a fertilised human egg is available at

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bfsnpdbb?query=human%20egg%20fertilised&page=1>

## The Incarnation: fearfully and wonderfully made

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

*Psalm 139:15-16*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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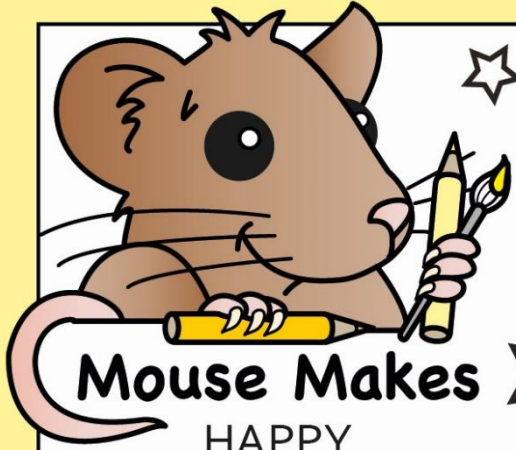
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# Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

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

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?



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

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

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



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 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE



# Reflections on the Christmas Story

The following is a mix of Bible readings and comments by Tony Horsfall, a former OMF missionary to the Far East and now retreat leader and author based in Yorkshire.

## **Matthew 1:18**                      **Joseph's dilemma**

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit...."*

It is not clear at what point Mary told Joseph the news of her pregnancy, but when she did it came as a bombshell. What should he do, knowing the child was not his? Could her story be true? He was however a righteous man, and he sought God for direction rather than acting impulsively. God spoke to him through a dream, confirming that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and this gave him the courage to stand by her, and take her as his wife. It was a brave decision, but he now knew that the child would be the One to save people from their sins.

It is easy when we have difficult decisions to make to be impetuous or hasty, but the best decisions are made slowly and with prayer. When you are making important choices ask God to guide you clearly, and to give you the courage to do what is right.

## **Matthew 1:22**                      **Long-awaited Immanuel**

*All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us') ... And Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.*

The plan of salvation is intimately connected to the Old Testament, and was the fulfilment of prophecies made long ago. God was sending His Son into the world that we might be saved. God is with us – this astonishing, mind-blowing truth underpinned Joseph's straight-forward trust in Him. Today as you get on with your life, pray that the wonder of knowing that God is with you will never be far from your awareness.

## **Luke 2:1-7**                      **Bethlehem**

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

This is perhaps the most familiar picture we have of the Christmas event—but remember what was happening. This was no ordinary child. In Jesus God became a human being and dwelt among us, perhaps the greatest miracle (and mystery) of all. As you visualise the scene again, let worship arise in your heart: *'From heaven you came, helpless Babe, entered our world your glory veiled.'* Emmanuel, God with us! The Servant King, worthy of all our adoration and love.

LORD God, in this season please help me to live in the wonder of your upside-down Kingdom where your love for us compels you to become helpless, vulnerable and dependent. May your Kingdom come in and through my life today.

## **Luke 2:8-12            The Shepherds arrive**

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

The first visitors are not VIPs but humble shepherds who have been summoned by an angelic visitor. For those who have eyes to see, there hidden in the manger beneath the blankets is the Son of God, the one sent by the Father to be the Saviour of the world. Very few of those crowded into Bethlehem that night were aware of what was happening. Only those with faith could recognise the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. It is the same today.

Lord, I pray for eyes to see where the glory of Heaven touches earth. May I be alive today with the truth that the Saviour, rescuer, King Jesus has been born 'to us' and that there is joy in this for all people. May my life reflect that glory even in a small way in my interactions with people, so that in this Christmas season the good news of great joy will be known.

## **Luke 2:13-15            Angel hosts**

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'*

The darkness of the Judean hillside was lit up by the appearance of a great angelic choir, messengers sent to herald the birth of the Saviour. Their song breaks the stillness of the night, first in praise of God for his act of mercy in sending the Son, and then in proclamation of the peace the child will bring to earth. The shepherds now decide to do the unthinkable -leave their flocks, and head off into town to see the new born King. Such is the drawing power of the Saviour.

Sometimes there are things we too must leave behind if we are to follow his call, but whatever sacrifice is needed, it will be worth it just to find him for ourselves.

## **Luke 2:16-20            Mary ponders**

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ... Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...*

The shepherds became the first evangelists, proclaiming the good news... That was their response, and it should be ours too.

But for Mary there followed a time of reflection. Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are in fact good companions in the spiritual life.

Thank you, LORD Jesus, that you are still found when we search for you. May I be willing to share the discovery I've made with others at this time. But I also want to know you better in my inner life, too. Please give me that balance of active following and heart-pondering reflection, especially in this Christmas season.

# Editor's Humour

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

"Can you tie a Knot"? "I cannot". "So, you can knot"? "No, I cannot knot". "Not knot"? "Who's there"?

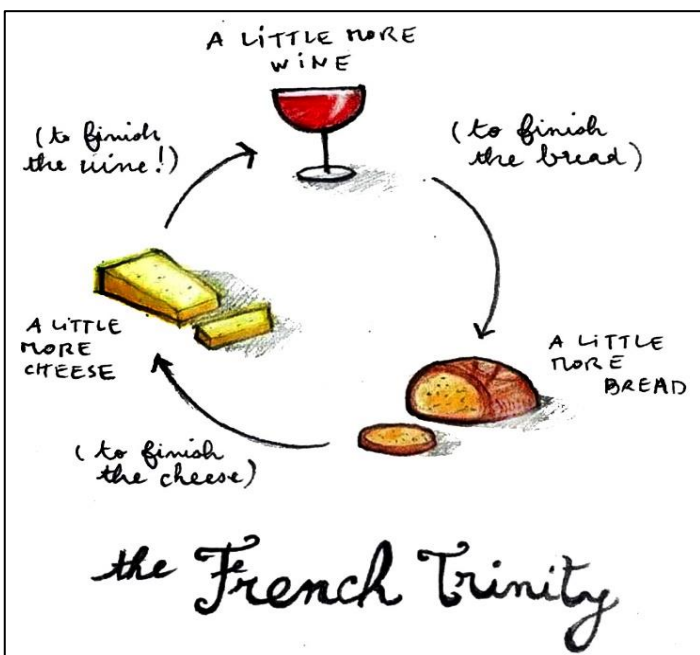
Wine is vital for our survival; Dinosaurs didn't have wine and look what happened to them!

Every marriage has one person who throws things out, and a garbage-loving chaos goblin who says, "But I was saving that!"

Reports are coming in that Boy George has been attacked by a reptile on the set of I'm A Celebrity. They should have got a calmer [Chameleon](#), but apparently, they come and go.

I am now "Take a picture of the label with my phone so I can blow it up bigger and read it" years old.

A new book for ['Screenagers'](#) – "The Printer That Simply Worked and Other Fairy Tales"





# Prayer for the Month

**Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

This prayer is an alternative to the usual and more well known Collect for Advent in Common Worship. It is a prayer that I try to say once a day, usually at Morning Prayer between Advent Sunday and Christmas Eve. The prayer takes up one of the themes of the Advent season - waiting. In Advent we wait.

We wait for Christmas - we wait for the joy of Christmas breaking into the darkest time of the year with the light and hope of Christ. Christmas falls only a few days after the longest night. It is not only a celebration of Jesus' birth, it is also a mid-winter festival; a reminder that no matter how bleak it may be, the winter will end and Spring will come.

At Advent we wait for the fulfilment of Jesus' promise that He will return to our world and Lord and Saviour. And it is important to remember that this is a promise and not a threat!

Advent is the promise that God has not and will not abandon His creation. In Jesus God began the work of healing this broken and fallen world, and when Jesus returns that work will be complete.

Just as in the depths of winter, the Christmas celebration is the promise of Spring, so when we pray for the suffering and the struggling, when we cry out to God on behalf of the vulnerable and the victims of our world, the Advent hope is God's promise. It is a promise of healing, a promise that every tear will be wiped away, every broken heart healed. It is the promise of perfect justice.

But for now we wait. Like Mary waiting for the birth of her promised Son, so we wait for His return. Like Mary we wait in hope and in expectation.

May God be with you this Advent. May God keep us faithful and hopeful as we await the fulfilment of His promises.

God bless,  
Tim

## The next issue

Editor: This is the last edition of the magazine for 2022, issues will recommence in February 2023. All contributions large and small are welcome.

We wish all our readers and their families a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a more optimistic and reassuring New Year.

## St Paul's Food Bank - continued

We're very lucky to have quite a big volunteer pool. These volunteers range from church members (from St Paul's or other churches), people recruited by the S6 food bank and also some volunteers who are also beneficiaries. It's a brilliant team with a real heart for hospitality, for truly listening and for helping other people. I can honestly say we get far more out of volunteering than we put in.

The new approach has meant that we need different skills for different days. Some people who felt previously unable to help have been able to help by chatting to people and praying with them.

We were reading in Ezekiel 47 about the water flowing from the temple and we felt a strong sense that the food bank is a place to access 'living water'. People come who are physically hungry, but also spiritually thirsty. Our prayer is that they are not only supplied with food, but they see something of God's love in their lives.

We are so grateful for the food and financial support you give us and feel very blessed that we are so well supported through prayer.

We would also like to thank the Ecclesfield Welfare Charities and the Feoffees, for their help in setting up the food bank and warm space.

***Katharine***



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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



## Lord Reith – running the BBC 100 years ago

One hundred years ago, on 14th December 1922, John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed general manager of the newly formed BBC. He was its first director general when it became a public corporation in 1927.

Born in Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Reith was educated in Glasgow and Norfolk. An engineer by profession, he had fought in the first world war, where he was wounded by a sniper. He was 6ft 6in tall and a Scottish Presbyterian whose Christian faith was both real and strict.

When taking control of the BBC he was, in his own words, "confronted with problems of which I had no experience". These included copyright and performing rights, as well as dealing with – among others – music publishers, playwrights, associations of concert artists and wireless manufacturers.

He was at the BBC for only 16 years, but he created long-lasting templates for public service broadcasting in Britain and elsewhere. He largely fought off politicians' attempts to influence the BBC – although he had to comply with Government strictures during the General Strike of 1926 – while offering programmes to "educate, inform and entertain".

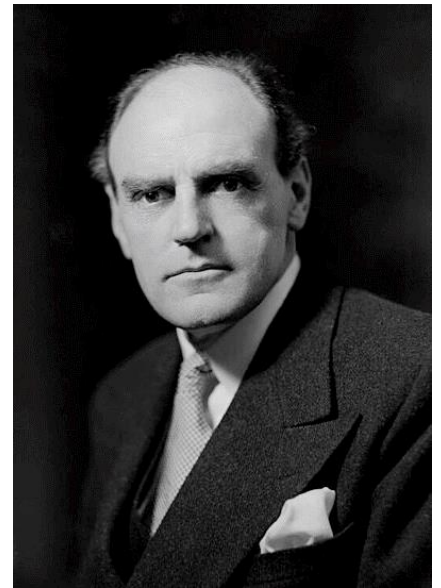
During his time at the BBC it had a firm Christian perspective, broadcasting to what was a Christian country. It did not start programmes on a Sunday until 12.30pm, to give people time to go to church first. Critics nowadays see the BBC as fostering the new fundamentalist religion of secular humanism.

Reith left the BBC in 1938 to become chairman of Imperial Airways. During the war he was appointed Minister of Information and became an MP for Southampton. He was later transferred to the House of Lords. The annual BBC Reith Lectures were inaugurated in 1948 in his honour.

***Tim Lenton***

*Editor: "Reithianism"* - The term describes certain principles of broadcasting associated with Lord Reith. These include an equal consideration of all viewpoints, probity, universality and a commitment to public service. Audiences had little choice apart from the upscale programming of the BBC, a government agency which had a monopoly on broadcasting. Reith, an intensely moralistic executive, was in full charge. His goal was to broadcast, "All that is best in every department of human knowledge, endeavour and achievement... The preservation of a high moral tone is obviously of paramount importance."

Reith succeeded in building a high wall against an American-style free-for-all in radio in which the goal was to attract the largest audiences and thereby secure the greatest advertising revenue. There was no paid advertising on the BBC; all the revenue came from a tax on receiving sets. Highbrow audiences, however, greatly enjoyed it. At a time when American, Australian, and Canadian stations were drawing huge audiences cheering for their local teams with the broadcast of baseball, rugby and hockey, the BBC emphasised service for a national, rather than a regional audience. Boat races were well covered along with tennis and horse racing, but the BBC was reluctant to spend its severely limited airtime on long football or cricket games, regardless of their popularity.



## The Gardening Year – December

**Figs**, did you know? The fig is one of the earliest fruits to be stored by man. Varieties, Brown Turkey crops heavily and is one of the most widely grown and reliable varieties. Pest and diseases, birds and wasp are fond of figs so use netting when the fruit has set. Harvest, figs do not ripen once picked, so make sure they are fully ripe before harvesting. When they are ready, they will pull away from the plant easily. Either eat them fresh, store in the refrigerator for a couple of days or freeze until you have enough to make jam.

**Pears** - like apples you will need to make sure a pear tree intended for a container is growing on a dwarfing root stock. Quince C root stock will grow trees up to 6 feet which is reasonable to take care of in a large container. Container and soil, choose the largest container available to you, half barrels are ideal. Make sure it is at least 2-foot deep. Pears need moisture retentive soil that is well draining. You can try a mix of equal quantities of compost, well-rotted manure, and topsoil.

**Care and position**, pears like a sunny, sheltered position and do not tolerate wind, against a south facing wall is ideal. You need 2 pear trees to fertilise one another unless you buy a self-fertile variety. Pear trees ideally need watering every day in the summer. When contained in pots to keep them healthy, and they need regular feeding once a month during the growing season. During late autumn take off the top few inches of compost and replace with new. Harvesting, you should pick pears when they are still hard, and allow them to ripen at room temperature off the tree. Once they are ripe, pears do not store particular well, so eat them fresh, bake into pies and freeze, or preserve in sugar syrup.

**Varieties**, Terrace Pearl, is a dwarf pear tree that reaches a maximum height of approximately 5 feet, it is heavy cropping and can be grown in a container on the patio, it requires little pruning. If you only want one tree Conference pear is a self-fertile variety.

Finally, I would like to wish your readers and all at St Marys a Merry Christmas  
and A Happy New Year

*Colin Williams*

## Eat the Seasons – December

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

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

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

**Meat** - Duck, Goose, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison

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

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

# The man who gave us safe milk and saved the silk industry

Two hundred years ago, on 27th December 1822, the French biologist, microbiologist and chemist Louis Pasteur was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

At school he was not an outstanding student, his favourite subject being art. But he eventually became a professor of chemistry first at the University of Strasbourg, where he met his wife Marie, and then, in 1854, at the University of Lille, where he was also dean of the science faculty.

A Roman Catholic by birth, he was said to have retained strong beliefs in God and eternity, –saying that studying nature led to his amazement at the works of the Creator. But he rarely attended church, saying that he prayed while working in the laboratory.



His achievements were many and varied, though after his death some doubt was cast on his methods and his failure sometimes to attribute the work of other scientists. He is best known for the now familiar process of pasteurising milk, removing harmful bacteria, but he also developed vaccinations for anthrax, TB and rabies. He also created, in 1865, a method of eliminating microbes that attacked silkworm eggs and was said to have helped save the silk industry as a result.

In 1868 he suffered a stroke and became partially paralysed, but he was able to continue his work. In 1885 he vaccinated a boy who had been bitten by a rabid dog: the success of this brought him fame and led to fundraising and the building of the Pasteur Institute in Paris in 1888. He died in 1895.

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## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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



# ERIC EYRE

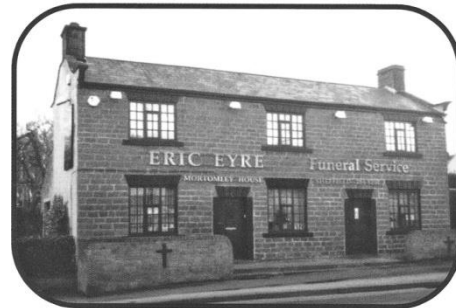
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# It is time to eat Venison

Much of the venison produced in the UK is from deer that roam freely, rather than being intensively farmed, resulting in superior meat. Good quality venison is tender, tasty and close textured, which means it's easy to produce great results using simple recipes. Meat from deer has been important in the human diet since prehistoric times. The term venison (from the Latin *venari* - to hunt) originally referred to meat from any wild animal. For centuries, deer parks owned by European aristocrats have been used as a source of sport and high-quality food. This concentration of valuable meat with access restricted to the elite few has long been a source of conflict between poacher and gamekeeper.

Deer are ruminant animals belonging to the family Cervidae. They are characterised by having antlers, rather than horns, and small, unspecialised stomachs. Instead of grazing on vast quantities of grass, deer tend to select easily digestible shoots, young leaves, fruit, fungi and lichens. Three species are commonly used for food in Britain: the red deer (largely from the Scottish Highlands); the fallow; and the roe (the smallest and considered the best by many cooks).

**Nutrition:** venison has higher iron levels than any other red meat, contains omega 3 fats and less fat than a skinned breast of chicken. Buy free-range or wild venison over farmed. The strength of flavour and fat content in venison can vary quite a bit between sources so buying from a farmers' market or trusted butcher will enable you to ask what to expect and pick up cooking tips. Store for a few days in the fridge (or longer if vacuum packed). Venison can be cooked in all the ways you would cook beef. It is a good idea to compensate for the lower fat content, for example by using moist-cooking methods, by barding or by marinating before cooking. Good quality steaks and tenderloin can be pan-fried but try to avoid overcooking. Serving with a sauce is recommended. Excellent partnering flavours for venison include wild mushrooms, juniper, gin, red wine, port, rosemary and redcurrant.

## **Venison and Mushroom Risotto** - Ingredients serves 4

500g venison steak	1 glass of red wine
300g Risotto (Arborio) rice	1 l of vegetable stock
75g butter in 2 pieces	50g grated parmesan
1 shallot (finely chopped)	Salt and pepper to taste
2 cloves garlic (finely chopped)	Chives to garnish
250g Wild or mixed mushrooms (sliced)	

**Directions:** Heat a frying pan on moderate heat, add a tablespoon of olive oil and fry the steak for about 3 minutes per side for rare or 4 minutes per side for medium (depending on the thickness), don't overcook. Remove from pan, cover with foil and set aside to keep warm.

**Using the same pan**, add half the butter and the shallots, and a little salt and pepper. Cook until soft, add the garlic and continue to cook until fragrant, a minute or two. Then add the mushrooms and rice and give everything a stir to get coated in the butter and oil, continue to cook until the rice becomes slightly translucent.

**Deglaze the pan** with the wine and stir until all the wine has been absorbed. Then add the stock about 1 ladle at a time, continuously stirring until the liquid is absorbed (about 2 minutes per ladle). Keep adding liquid until the risotto is creamy but al dente, with a slight bite to it. This should take about 4-5 ladles of stock. If it seems like the liquid absorption is taking too long, turn the heat up a notch. Once the rice is cooked, take off the heat, add the remaining half of the butter and the parmesan and season with black pepper, stir until incorporated and melty. Plate the risotto, slice the venison steak and place on top. Garnish with chives or wilted (steamed) kale.

# Crossword Puzzle

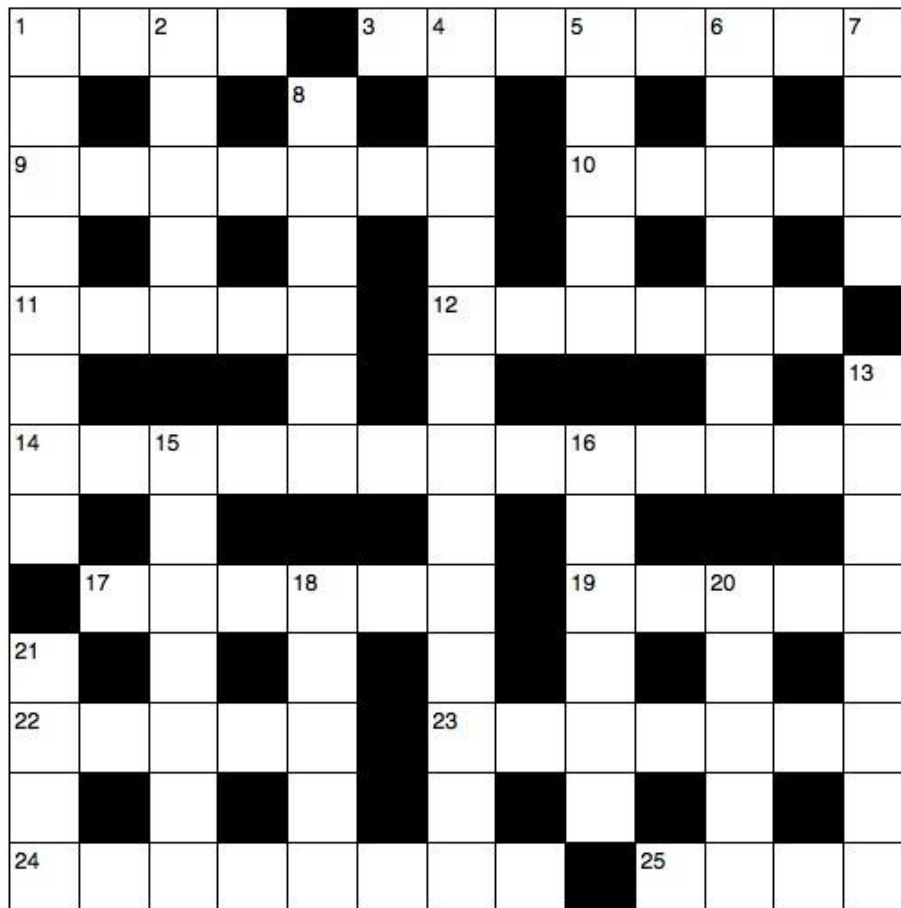
## Clues Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have —?' (Job 22:15) (4)

## Clues Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — —' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "— — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 '— to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, "— out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, "— will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)





## Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."



# Chapelton & District Probus Club



Our speaker at the November meeting was our Vice-Chairman, Nick Tovey. He had previously spoken about the Japanese stone art Suiseki and this time his presentation was about the fascinating Japanese gardens. Once a technical hitch with the laptop and projector had been resolved, he recapped with some photos of Suiseki before embarking on the subject of gardens. The key features are plants and stones very carefully arranged and often with gravel, meticulously raked. Nick showed a range of slides from Japan illustrating the different aspects of design and included some photos from England. Afterwards, we went to Wortley Hall for an enjoyable lunch.

Plans for trips in 2023 are being made and will be announced early in the New Year – members' families and friends are always welcome on these trips.

We have been successful this year in welcoming several new members and new members continue to be welcome. The club is focussed on providing a place for retired and semi-retired men to meet in a convivial atmosphere and if you are interested, why not come along as a guest to see what happens? Please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

## **Upcoming meetings at 10:00 in Grenoside Community Centre (followed by lunch at Wortley Hall):-**

- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Paul Adey “The Battle of Jutland” followed by Christmas lunch
- 11<sup>th</sup> January – Stephen Gaye “The East Coast Main Line London to York.”
- 8<sup>th</sup> February – BBC Sports Reporter Peter Slater “So you still don't know who I am”
- 14<sup>th</sup> February – 12:30 for 13:00, Winter Lunch at Wortley Hall – all welcome
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Meeting and Quiz

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**Andrew Robinson**

## **Ecclesfield in Bloom**

A big “Thank you” to everyone who donated, helped, and attended the Ecclesfield in Bloom Christmas Fayre. It was a great success and we saw many new faces amongst the people who attended on the day. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying being together.

The raffle prizes were won by Jeanette and Frances.

**Ecclesfield's Christmas Tree:** Thank you to John & Sylvia Harrison, Molly Barker, Jonathan Whitehead, Phil Hague, and Andrew Riddle for his assistance with his tractor.

John Cave and Sheffield Insulation Group for organising the transportation of the tree, and Sheffield Tree Care Ltd for the loan of their access equipment.

Ecclesfield Parish Council, Ecclesfield Welfare Charities, Friends of Ecclesfield Park, St Mary's Lane Trust, and all our anonymous donors. Who all helped or contributed to the cost of the installation of the village Christmas tree

**Happy Christmas to everyone from Ecclesfield in Bloom**

# Prayers and Poems Page

## **I heard the Bells on Christmas Day**

*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

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**Editor:** Nigel Beeton writes: Micah 5:2-4 contains the prophecy about the birth of Jesus that was quoted by the scribes and chief priests when Herod enquired about the location of that event. Micah revealed that this was to be Bethlehem Ephrathah, or fruitful Bethlehem. Her 'fruit' was to be the Saviour of Mankind!

## **Bethlehem Ephrathah - By Nigel Beeton**

Bethlehem Ephrathah  
Though small you be  
Your fruit shall be a ruler  
Who'll rule for Me  
When she who is in labour  
Comes to give birth  
Then shall her offspring's greatness  
Fill all the earth.

For He shall be a shepherd  
O'er all His sheep  
In God the loving Father  
In peace they'll sleep  
O Bethlehem Ephrathah  
His name we'll praise  
For He began before all time –  
The Ancient of Days!

## **Twisty the Tree - By Nigel Beeton**

I called my new tree 'Twisty'  
I just could not resist -  
The crown on which the angel sat  
Had got a little twist!

We gave it lots of water  
As we are meant to do  
And kept it cool till it was time  
To bring dear Twisty through.

Residing in our living room  
Despite his twisted end  
Bedecked with globes and tinsel  
He was our Christmas friend!

We watered Twisty daily  
And talked to him a lot  
The fact he never answered back –  
It mattered not a jot!

Then, soon enough, came Christmas Day  
And all around our tree  
Were wrapped and ribboned Christmas gifts  
With love to you and me.

For twelve days after Christmas  
We kept him while we could  
With twinkling lights and verdant leaves  
Our tree just looked so good!

But Twelfth Night came upon us,  
And, though it broke my heart,  
The Christmas season ended –  
T'was time for us to part.

We took off all his pretty lights  
We stripped our Twisty bare  
We took him to the garden  
And left him lying there.

Until came bin collection day  
And, though it seemed a sin  
We cut him into pieces, small  
And put him in the bin.

The moral of my story, sad  
Is (so it seems to me),  
So that you don't shed bitter tears  
Don't name your Christmas tree!



# Contact Details 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](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com)

## **Ecclesfield Cubs**

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pack 6:30 pm to 8:0 pm  
Leader - Mrs A Hancock  
Tel: 0114 245 2780

## **Ecclesfield Beavers**

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Monday 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm  
Leader - Mrs J Steel  
0114 246 0218  
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm  
Shane Porteous  
[shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk](mailto:shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk)

## **Ecclesfield Scouts**

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm  
Leader - Bryony Hemming  
[25theecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com](mailto:25theecclesfieldscouts@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](http://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](mailto:whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk)  
Website:  
[www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com](http://www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com)

## **Chapelton and District PROBUS Club**

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month  
in Grenoside Community Centre  
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome  
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow  
[chapelton.probus@gmail.com](mailto:chapelton.probus@gmail.com)  
We are now on face to face see  
[www.chapelton-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapelton-probus.org.uk)

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

# Useful Contacts



<b><u>Vicar:</u></b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
<b>'Assistant Curate:</b>		
Revd. Sam Ellmore	revsamellmore@outlook.com	0747 9985 199
<b>Churchwardens:</b>		
Ann Hackett		246 7159
Jo Hawksworth		246 2852
Michael Waldron		246 3091
<b>Readers:</b>		
<b>Pastoral Workers:</b>		
<b>Church Office</b>		
Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm		
<b>Groups:</b>	<b>Times and Days:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Choir Practice in Church</b>	3 pm on the first Friday of each month	
Contact:		
<b>Music Group</b>	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	
Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746
<b>Mother's Union in Gatty Hall</b>	1 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	
Contact: Stephanie Hartshorne		245 9435
<b>Ecclesfield Ladies Group</b>	7:30 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	
Contact: Anne Rostron		245 5492
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	
Contact: Phil Hirst		286 2766
<b>Gatty Hall Bookings</b>		0780 307 8223
<b>For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar</b>		
<b>Magazine e-mail:</b>	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	



# Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers Christmas Concert

3.00pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December

In the Gatty Hall, Ecclesfield

with guests

**Deepcar Brass Band**

and

**High Green Primary School Choir**

Come and sing along to your favourite carols

**Tickets: £7.00**

Please ring: 0796 309 1121 or 0771 476 0370

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



Photograph by Alexander Bassett



**Local Carols around the Christmas tree**

**Monday 19th December at 7pm**

**Followed by a sing inside the Church at 7:45pm**

**Local Carols at The Stocks, Ecclesfield**

Thursday 17th November 8:30pm

Thursday 24th November 8:00pm

Thursday 1st December 8:00pm

Thursday 8th December 8:00pm

Thursday 15th December 8:00pm

Thursday 22nd December 8:00pm



For more information visit: [localcarols.org.uk/](http://localcarols.org.uk/)



# Christmas Services at St. Mary's

## Christingle Service

Celebrate Christingle with us on  
Sunday 18th December 4:00 pm

## Christmas Eve

### Crib Service

Join in as we hear the well-known story of  
Jesus' birth - for children and their adults  
Saturday 24th December 4:00 pm

### Nine Lessons & Carols

Welcome to our traditional family service of  
lessons and carols  
Saturday 24th December 6:30 pm

### Christmas Day

All Age Communion for Christmas  
A traditional family service  
Sunday 25th December 10:00 am

All welcome

