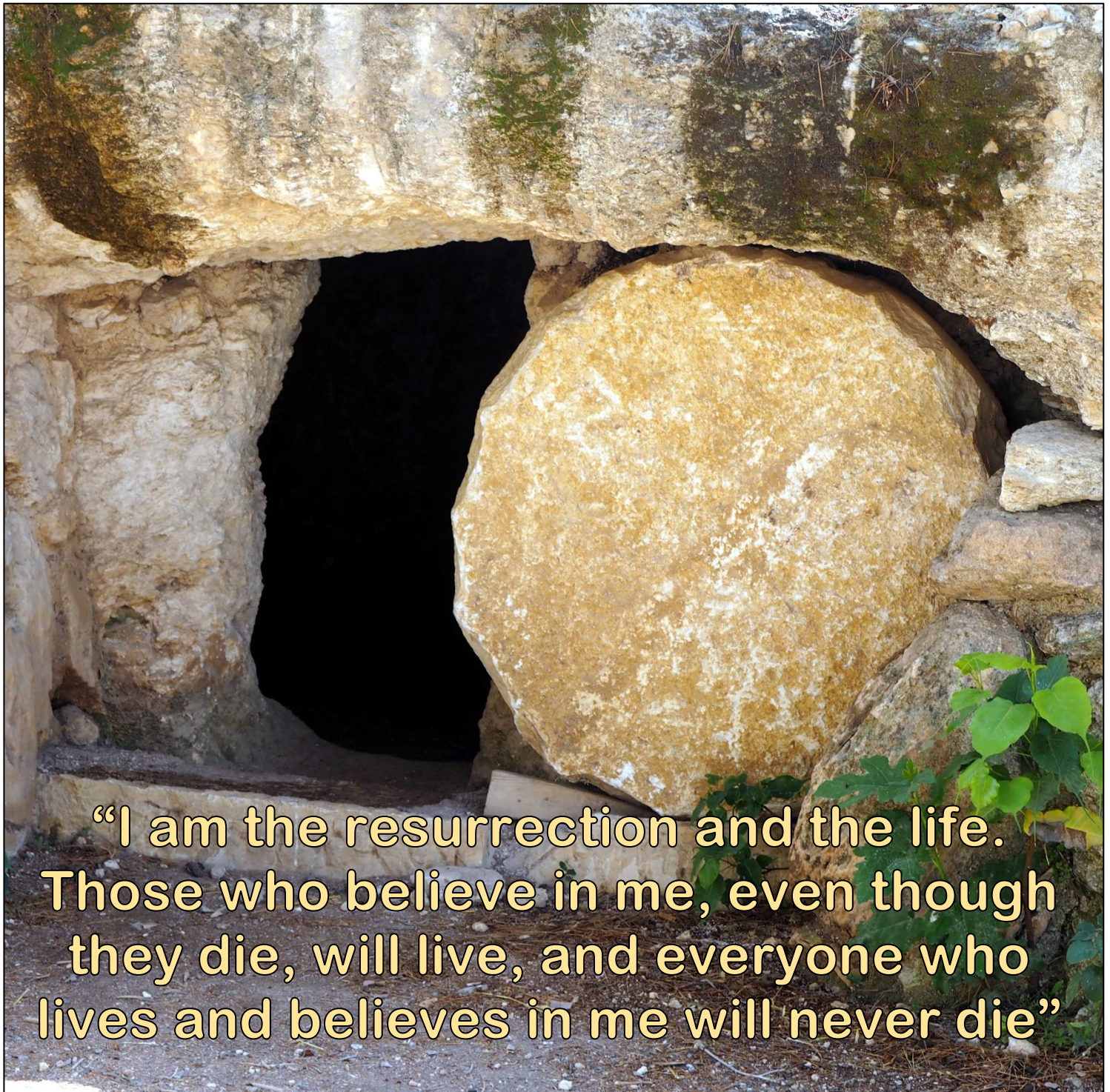


News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



“I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though
they die, will live, and everyone who
lives and believes in me will never die”

Church Magazine April 2023

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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First Words

Please note that we will not be having Prayer Breakfast in April.

This April we start the month with Holy Week as we follow Jesus on the way to the Cross and the victory of Easter.

On **Saturday 1st April at 3pm** we have the first **wedding** of the year at St Mary's.

Sunday 2nd April is **Palm Sunday** and the start of Holy Week. We have communion with the blessing of Palm Crosses at 10am and **Baptisms at 12 noon**.

On **Monday of Holy Week, 3rd April, at 7pm** we are invited to the **Cathedral for the Chrism Service**.

On **Tuesday in Holy Week, 4th April**, there will be a short service of **Midday Prayer in Church at 12noon**.

On **Wednesday 5th April** we have the **Lent Course at 7.30pm**.

On **Maundy Thursday, 6th April**, we have the usual mid-week Communion service at 9.30am. **The Lent Course** is repeated at **2.30pm**. At **7.30pm** we celebrate Jesus' **Last Supper** and we keep a time of silent prayer and reflection after this service in the Chancel.

On **Good Friday morning at 10am** there will be **All Age worship**, and at **12 noon to 3pm** we have the **Three Hours At the Cross**.

On **Holy Saturday, 8th April, at 10am** we will be making the **Easter Garden**. All are welcome to come along and help!

On **Sunday 9th April** we celebrate **Easter at the 10am Eucharist**.

Wednesday 12th April at 12 noon, wedding rehearsal in Church.

On **Friday 14th April at 1.30pm** there is a **wedding** in Church.

On **Monday 17th April at 7pm** in Church the **Prayer Ministry Team** will meet in Church.

On **Sunday 23rd April at 12 noon**, after the morning service, we have the **Annual General Meeting** and election of Wardens, PCC Members and Deanery Synod Representatives.

Monday 24th April, 7.30pm in Church, **PCC Meeting**.

Friday 28th April, 2pm wedding in Church.

Saturday 29th April 7.30pm Guitar Recital in Church (TBC).

May God bless us this Easter as we celebrate once again the victory of Christ!

Tim



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Steel City Choristers at St. Mary's

St. Mary's was privileged on Sunday 12th March to welcome guest choir, The Steel City Choristers, to lead choral evensong. Formed in 2021 when the previous Sheffield Cathedral Choir disbanded, the choir set up to be a community based choir, registered as a charity and with the aim of performing and helping to teach and train people, especially young people, in the skills of singing.



Conducted by Eleanor Jarvis, the service on Sunday evening was an amazing and special experience with a choir 30 strong giving an outstanding lead to the service accompanied by Neil Taylor on the organ. The whole service reflected the acoustics of St. Mary's and the fine organ, with the overall effect of a quality equal to any Cathedral. Using a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis set by composer Basil Harwood (1859 – 1949) and responses by Kenneth Leighton (1929 – 1988), it reminded everyone of the way Ecclesfield would have used choral music regularly in the past as a way of praising the Lord. With an anthem by Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983) and an organ voluntary by J S Bach, it was a fitting end to a wonderful service.

Although this was an opportunity not to be missed, we are very pleased that the Steel City Choristers are planning to return in May so please look for the information in the May magazine and on publicity posters and on Facebook. The possibility of a service led by them in Advent is already under discussion.

Andrew Robinson



<https://steelcitychoristers.org.uk/>

For your diary:

Choral Evensong: Sunday 14 May 2023 at 6.30pm here at St Mary's Church, Ecclesfield

24th April: St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It is set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

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An Easter Meditation

Editor: Here is an Easter meditation by Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

In the New Testament the resurrection of Jesus is presented as a simple historical fact. He did rise from the grave on that first Easter morning.

The four evangelists, and Paul, carefully lay out the evidence. They record for us the details of the empty tomb, the names of those who visited it, the various appearances of the risen Jesus and how He was seen by more than five hundred witnesses. But the New Testament tells us more than that.

It tells us, not only of the power of God that raised Jesus from the grave (e.g. Romans 1:4) but also of that same power being invested in the Church. Christians are new people! We are 'made alive' in our Risen Head (Ephesians 1:1). His victory has become our victory! As Jesus promised: 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

Until our Lord returns again one day, Christians will die physically, but their victory over death is already guaranteed. As Paul demonstrates in 1 Corinthians 15, death is 'swallowed up in victory'! Death's sting is abolished! And so Paul proclaims our victory anthem. 'Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' (vv.55-57)!

Down through 2,000 years Christ's people have lived in that glorious victory. One example was Donald Cargill (1619-1681). Cargill was a Presbyterian minister and a Covenanter in the years known in Scotland's history as 'the killing times.' The Covenanters opposed all attempts by the English parliament to impose Episcopacy on Scotland. With other Covenanters, Cargill strongly denounced the immorality and irreligion of the court of King Charles II. Hundreds of Covenanters were imprisoned at this time, and many were executed, both men and women.

Cargill's fearless itinerant preaching made him a marked man. He moved from place to place, preaching in cottages, fields, and town squares, protected by loyal friends. Then in July 1681 he was arrested and imprisoned. The outcome of his trial was never in question. The government of the day was determined to silence this influential 'rebel.' He was sentenced for execution on July 27th of that year.

On the scaffold in Edinburgh, Cargill spoke to the large crowd that had come to support him. "I climb this ladder," he declared, "with less fear than ever I entered a pulpit to preach." Then, raising his eyes to a blue July sky over his beloved Scotland, he cried out: "I have gotten me Christ and Christ has gotten me the victory." The blade fell and the brave soul of Donald Cargill joined the martyrs who lived and died in the victory of the Risen Christ.

Thanks be to God indeed! That glorious victory is not only for all the brave martyrs, but for all of us who belong to Christ. Death is defeated. The grave is conquered. Christ lives for ever in the power of an endless life. And we live in Him! We can all say: 'I have gotten me Christ and Christ has gotten me the victory.'

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Cargill

God in The Arts

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art. You can see the image described by googling 'The Funeral of Phocion'. A copy of the picture which is in the public domain can be found at: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/nicolas-poussin/landscape-with-the-funeral-of-phocion-1648>

'He gave us eyes to see them': Poussin's 'The Funeral of Phocion.'

In the 17th century the name Arcadia evoked an earthly paradise that was celebrated in art and literature as an idyllic place of peace and harmony where humanity and nature were at one. To live in such beautiful surroundings was to find heaven on earth. We often have that feeling when we are out in the countryside amid the hills and woods, the valleys and lakes. The sun shines benevolently down on the scene, and we feel nothing can destroy that happiness and sense of unity we have with creation around us.



That is the mood shown to us when we first look at this month's painting, 'The Funeral of Phocion.' It is by the Baroque artist, Nicholas Poussin, who was born in France but spent most of his working life in Rome, where he died in 1665. In the distance are friendly hills, and then closer at hand we see the trees and bushes, a winding river, the shepherd and his sheep, a couple walking and talking, and the farmer and his cart. There are also signs of civilization – it is the city of Athens with its temple and buildings, a place where harmony and reason rule. Poussin presents us with a calm, ordered landscape.

But in the foreground, we see something that jolts us out of this reverie. Two slaves carry off a body for burial. It is Phocion, an Athenian general. He was known as 'Phocion the good,' admired for his honesty and integrity and for his simple way of life. In the 4th century BC Phocion argued for peace when the city around clamoured for war with Macedon. His enemies won the day and they intrigued to have him condemned. As a traitor, Phocion was denied a burial in Athens, and so his body is being taken outside the city.

The world of civilization and the world of nature seem oblivious to this tragedy of a moral life cut down by others. In this month of Eastertide we can think of a similar scene of nature and civilization. The garden of Joseph of Arimathea where a body is brought for burial – someone, who like Phocion, stood out for goodness and peace, but who fell victim to the forces of hatred and jealousy within the city walls of Jerusalem.

Poussin painted a second canvas where the ashes of Phocion are returned to his grieving widow – a sad end to a good life with no hint of hope for a better future. In this season we rejoice in a different end to the story of Jesus. On Good Friday His body is laid to rest in a tomb. Two days later the Lord of Easter walks again in that garden to tell a grieving Mary Magdalene that there is hope for her future. There is the promise of transformation – a new creation and a new world where eternal life is triumphant. In such a world, the human heart within, the dwelling places of people and the countryside around can never be the same again. The Easter Alleluia rings out to embrace them all.

St James the Least of All

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

Beware when the choirs meet

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

You agonised recently over your ecumenical service: who should be invited? Who should preach? What about the order of service? If you had attended our recent combined churches' choir festival, your own dilemmas would have seemed a little less acute.

At the pre-meeting, there was heated discussion about whether those choirs who normally wore robes would be comfortable standing among those who didn't. The more aesthetically sensitive worried whether St Agatha's pea green cassocks may clash with our red ones. Intending to be helpful, but phrasing it rather badly, someone suggested that the normally robed choirs should wear nothing. Colonel Wainwright was a little too quick to chuckle.

I began to wonder if a prize was to be awarded to the person who raised the greatest number of concerns: Should the choirs stay separate? Would the tenors be next to the altos or the basses? Where would extra seating be placed? Would the heating be on for the rehearsal? Then came what you would call the 'elephant in the room': of all the choirmasters, who would conduct and who play the organ? Tension mounted, and expressions grew grim. But before the committee started to dig trenches in my carpet and position howitzers under the desk, I briefly left the room, turned off all the electricity and claimed we'd had a power cut. This is a useful device for truculent committees; sadly, it can be used only rarely.

Come the day, an uneasy truce lasted while everyone adopted the traditional solution to disagreement within congregations, and simply did exactly what they wanted. Some were robed, some were not, some choirs congealed in their own huddles, while others joyfully sat next to people from other churches – mainly so they could point out their neighbour's wrong notes. Some sang in the right key, some sang in the wrong key, some sang what sounded like quite different songs altogether.

The service ended with one choir thinking that the organist had played too loudly, while another choir thought that the conductor wasn't up to much. Everyone agreed afterwards that we must do it again, while firmly stating that if their own choirmaster didn't conduct next year, they wouldn't be there.

Thankfully, one fundamental thing on the day united them: they all said that our church was too cold, and they all went down to the pub afterwards to warm up.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Thought for the Month

Easter is the heart and soul of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection there would be no Christian faith, no Christian Church. It is not for nothing that Paul said “if Christ has not been raised ... your faith is in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:14). As the great African Bishop Augustine said, “We are an Easter people.”

John, in his Gospel, tells the story of Easter in a way that reminds his readers of the second parable of creation in Genesis chapter 2. After the disciples have seen the empty tomb and then returned to the city. Mary Magdalene is left alone at the empty tomb in the garden, there she meets someone that she thinks is a gardener (like Adam).

The reason that John wants us to think of the story of creation as we read the story of the resurrection is that for John and for the first Christians, Easter was seen as a moment of new creation, or rather of the renewal and healing of the old, fallen creation.

Those who encounter the risen Jesus see the world in a new light, and they live their lives in a new way. For those who meet the risen Christ everything changes. it is a new world!

In the fallen creation, Christ is a foolish failure who stood against the powers of the world represented by Rome and Jerusalem, and like so many other tragic victims, he was destroyed by them. But in the renewed creation, God has raised Christ to new life. He has shown that love and mercy are greater than the powers of the world. We can live our lives with confidence that the way of Christ, the way of humility and compassion, of mercy and love is the path of truth and of life.

In raising His Son Jesus to life beyond death, God has shown that death itself is a defeated enemy. And so we can live our lives in the hope that death is defeated for all people and for all time.

The first Christians lived lives of compassion for all people. they cared for the sick, fed the hungry and stood beside the vulnerable. They lived lives unafraid of death, unafraid of those who exercise power and authority. Rome soon discovered that those who do not fear death cannot be threatened or intimidated.

At first Rome tried to stamp the Church out, but within three centuries the emperor bowed before Christ!

At Easter we are invited - challenged - to live our lives in this world, in the hope and the knowledge that the love of God, which we see in Christ crucified and risen, is the greatest power, the most potent force in all creation. Easter challenges us to live our lives as if we truly believe that in Jesus Sin and Death are defeated once and for all!

May the risen Christ fill us with hope and joy, today and forever.

Amen.

Mothers Union

On Wednesday 1st March our speaker was Mark Holmes – he came to speak to us about care of the elderly particularly those with dementia and long-term illnesses. He asked how many were scared for themselves, family members, neighbours etc. with signs of dementia – a significant number said they were.

He went on to say that he had worked in Social Services from leaving school and then some years ago due to financial constraints and cut backs he felt that he was likely to be made redundant and so he spoke to his wife and they agreed that he should set up a Carer Service. This was obviously a big step but he is passionate about care of the elderly and so they went ahead.

Mark spoke about the many people with dementia and how many people in the media were being diagnosed. He said one of the important things is that if you should be concerned about yourself or a family member – then see your GP and ask to be referred to the memory clinic where you will get a diagnosis.

When loved ones have dementia it is like losing them before the right time – and constant personal care becomes necessary. Always remember that these are people you love and help them to feel safe. Sometimes if they should get upset it is good to rub a part of the hand between the thumb and forefinger. Music can also be very valuable.

He now runs an Adult Carer Day Centre for people with long term health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's etc. as well as providing care to prevent social isolation. At his centre they offer carers an opportunity to leave their loved ones in a safe, relaxing and non-clinical environment where they can spend time baking, reminiscing, music and games with no pressure for them to join in. Advice is also offered to carers to enable them to focus on their own lives.

I think we all felt that Mark had helped us to learn about helping people with long term issues.

Thank you, Mark.

Stephanie Hartshorne



Joanne Cooke, SAC, DipRFHP

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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 5th March: Leo Michael Drew Steel & Amelia Paige Steel; Eloise Jayne Leitch.

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

The Coronation of King Charles

The coronation of King Charles will be on Saturday 6th May.

On Sunday 7th May at 10am we will be holding a special service of thanksgiving at 10am.

It is a good opportunity to invite family and friends along.

There will be refreshments and a loyal toast after the service.

There will be a meeting on 'Low Sunday' 16th April after the morning service to plan and discuss this special service.

Greetings

On Sunday 12th March, we were blessed to host for the Steel City Choristers (<https://steelcitychoristers.org.uk/>) as they shared with us the tradition of choral Evensong. It has been many years since evensong has been experienced at St Marys, and several people have shared with me how valuable it has been to experience it again.

I was doubly blessed by this event: I had actually *never* experienced a choral Evensong service before; and I was invited to provide the cantor voice for the preces and responses, which form a significant part of the sung prayers.

Writing as someone for whom this was new territory, I am grateful to Steel City Choristers for sharing this powerful and uplifting gift with our church; I was pleasantly surprised by how spiritually invigorating it was. Folks will no doubt have realised that I love all kinds of musical expressions of worship – so it was a particular joy to explore some new territory! I am especially grateful to one of the choir's musical leads, Jeremy. He was very kind and generous with his time, as he supported me and prepared me for my role within the service.

The whole choir was a delight to meet and worship with. The group, consisting of young people and adults, were as diverse and cheerful as their colourful assortment of robes (almost a full rainbow). I am very excited that they are returning to worship with us again on Sunday 14 May, at 6.30pm, and strongly recommend that, if you haven't experienced choral Evensong before, that you come along and join us – and even if you have, why not bring the family and invite your friends. It is a rare and wonderful worshipping experience; and I found it uplifting, peaceful and inclusive.

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate

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.

How Can a Christian be a Scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered, who could make it in the world of science and still hold onto their faith? Soon enough I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, some of whom were at my own university. So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges that a life in science holds for a Christian?

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things in the world, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. Exploring the world is a great thing to do to express our gratitude to the Creator. There is a sense of awe and wonder that comes when we expand our minds and our horizons by discovering things about the universe can feed into our worship.

Of course, there may be things in science that some Christians don't want to get involved in because of what they believe. But there should also be ethical issues that make them want to get stuck into new research that will help people, protect creation, or tackle injustices. I am glad to see that many senior scientists do their best to find appropriate ways to make their own faith visible, so that people like my younger self can find role models and mentors.

Another helpful thing about science is that although our beliefs may at times affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they shouldn't affect the outcome of experiments themselves. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of that worldview.

In my work at [The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion](#), and my involvement with [Christians in Science](#), I have the privilege of meeting a great number of scientists who are also Christians. One of the most famous living biologists is Francis Collins, who was Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA. He wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." (Francis Collins, [The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief](#) (Simon and Schuster, 2007)

Editor: 34 Great Scientists Who Were Committed Christians

Blaise Pascal 1623 – 1662	Michael Faraday 1791 – 1867	George W Carver 1864 – 1943
Robert Boyle 1627 – 1691	Charles Babbage 1791 – 1871	Charles Barkla 1877 – 1944
Nicolas Steno 1638 – 1686	Samuel Morse 1791 – 1872	Arthur Eddington 1882 – 1944
Isaac Newton 1643 to 1727	Mary Anning 1799 – 1847	Ronald Fisher 1890 – 1962
Leonhard Euler 1707 – 1783	Florence Nightingale 1820 – 1910	Arthur Compton 1892 – 1962
Albrecht von Haller 1708 – 1777	Gregor Mendel 1822 – 1884	Georges Lemaître 1894 – 1966
Antoine Lavoisier 1743 – 1794	William Thomson 1824 – 1907	Werner Heisenberg 1901 – 1976
Alessandro Volta 1745 – 1827	Bernhard Riemann 1826 – 1866	Ernest Walton 1903 – 1995
John Dalton 1766 – 1844	Clerk Maxwell 1831 – 1879	John Eccles 1903 – 1997
Carl Friedrich Gauss 1777 – 1855	Willard Gibbs 1839 – 1903	Charles Townes 1915 – 2015
Humphry Davy 1778 – 1829	John A Fleming 1849 – 1945	Francis Collins 1950 – present
	J J Thomson 1856 – 1940	



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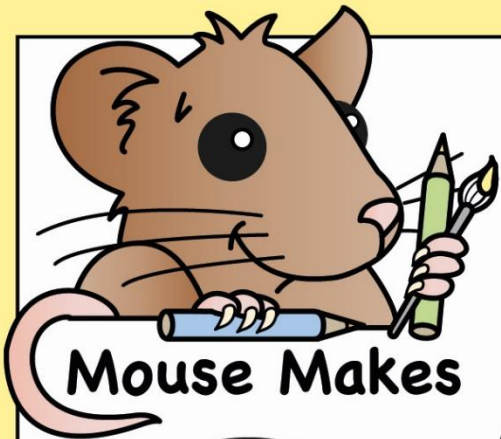
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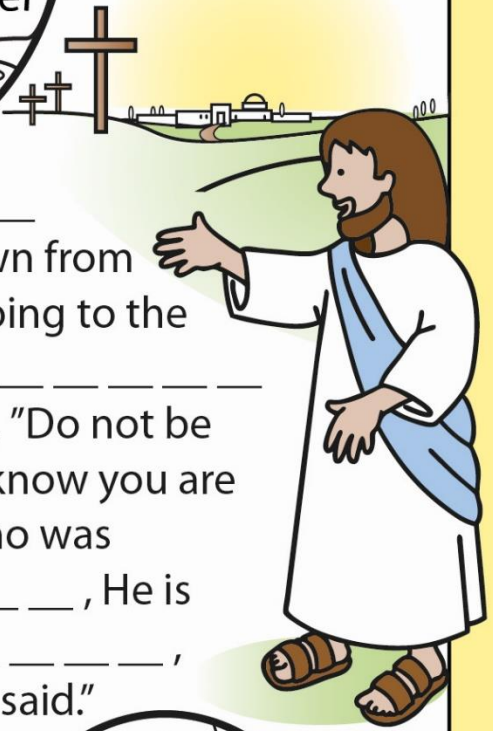
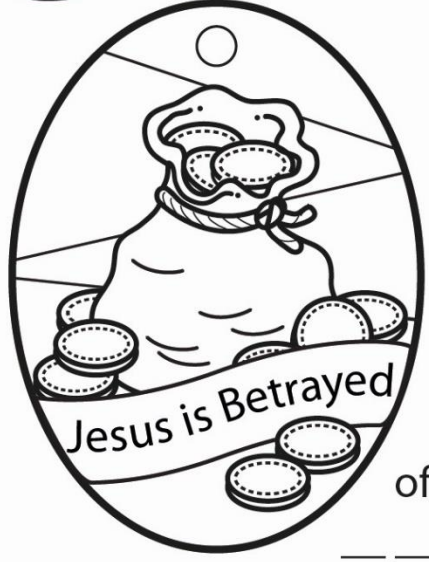
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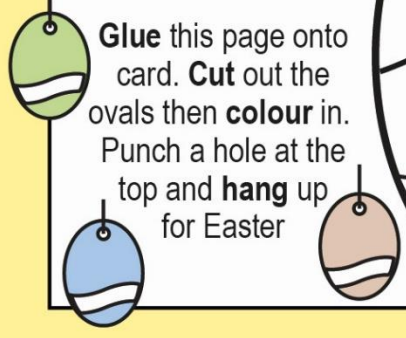
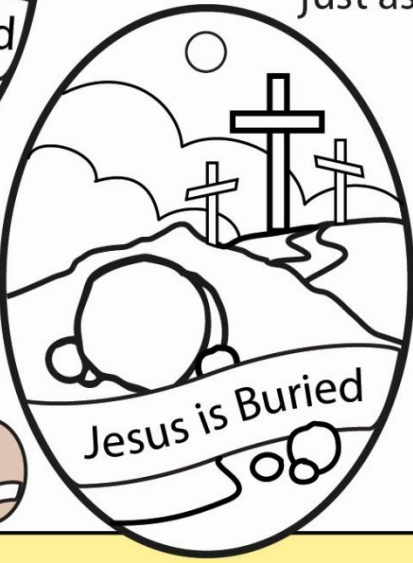
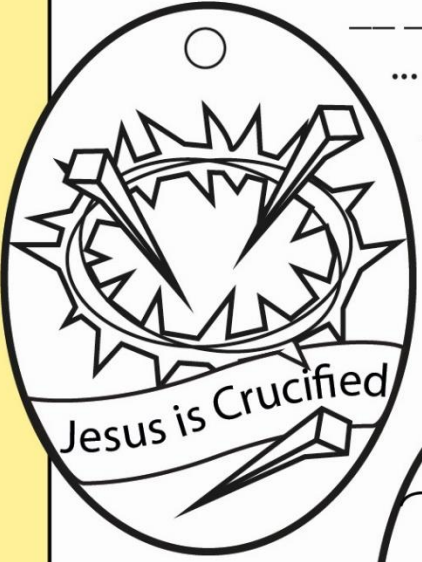


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_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



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Editor's Humour

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

Between cholocate and congratulation which one did you read wrongly? Most people read slightly misspelled words correctly - [Typoglycemia](#)

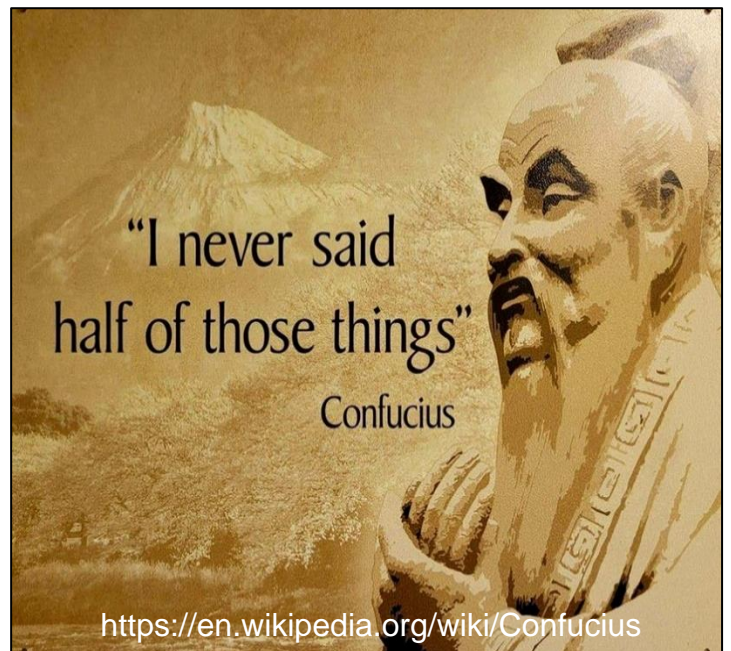
I can't turn water into wine, but I can turn wine into water, and I can also turn [Pizza](#) into breakfast.

According to Greek Mythology, [Chiron](#) was half horse, half human doctor. This made him the Centaur for Disease Control.

[Hank Marvin](#) is fed up with being offered a sandwich whenever he introduces himself.

I found that I have been happier since I changed from Coffee in the morning to Orange Juice. My doctor explained that it's the [Vitamin C](#) and natural sugars, but I really think it's the [Vodka](#).

The older I get, the more I regret all the people I've lost, Maybe being a [Trail Guide](#) wasn't such a great idea after all.



Prayer for the Month

***Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we have arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.***

***Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.***

***Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.***

***We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.***

This is a prayer that is often attributed to Sir Francis Drake but was in fact written in 1967!

This prayer reminds us to dream big; it is an appeal to the God who is greater than we imagine. It is a request that God disturb us out of satisfaction with the ordinary.

When life is good, when we are happy with our lot, we have little need of God. It is in times of crisis or change that we cling to God. It is also in times of struggle and crisis that our horizons are expanded. We all like an easy and comfortable life, but this prayer asks God to disturb us out of our comfortableness, and out of a comfortable faith. It is a prayer that we experience the breath-taking, all-surpassing wonder and mystery of God.

It is a good prayer to pray; but it comes with a warning. If we ask God to disturb us, God may answer our prayer!

God bless,

Tim.

Don't miss out on your sleep

A new study has found that people who do 'all-nighters' for work or study are stressing their brains. Sleep deprivation makes your brain look, and work, like it is two years older. The good news is that getting just even three hours of sleep is enough to keep it normal. And also, the study by scientists at Forschungszentrum Jülich, a national research institution in Germany, found that even a single night of recovery sleep reverses the damage of an 'all-nighter'.

Sleep deprivation has also been found to slow down our cognitive functions. We tend to make poorer decisions, be muddled in our memories, get into a bad mood, and feel very irritable.

Have a drink. Have two drinks!

Drinking is really good for you. Drinking water, that is. Recent research has found that people who drink a good amount of water are less likely to develop chronic conditions, or to show signs of advanced ageing. The key seems to be in your serum sodium levels, which go up when your fluid intake goes down. Adults with high serum sodium levels are more likely to develop chronic illness, and also more likely to die younger.

"The results suggest that proper hydration may slow down ageing and prolong a disease-free life," said one scientist. The study was published in a recent issue of the eBioMedicine journal. According to NHS England, people should have six to eight drinks a day, which can include water, lower-fat milks, tea and coffee.

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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, preferably not quite as hot as summer 2022. Unfortunately, the heavy snow in the 2nd week of March has caused some damage to the netting on our new practice nets facility and repairs will need to be carried out to get them back into full use. The 2022 season ended with the 1st XI in 6th position in the Premier League, the 2nd XI in 5th place in Division 1 and the 3rd XI in 3rd place in Division 6, narrowly missing out on promotion. So let's plan and play for success this season.

As we look to the 2023 season, we welcome back Callum Bethel and Jack Myers to Whitley and new players Alfie Bell from Worksop College and Matt Thompson from Liverpool. A special welcome to our overseas visitor Montcin Hughes from Anguila, a British Overseas Territory in the Leeward Isles in the Caribbean. Montcin is a batsman who has played for the Leeward Isles and we aim to make him feel at home. The junior section continues to flourish with 5 junior teams playing in the 2023 season and our ladies team who have chosen to be known as the Whitley Witches! Whitley is also involved again in the ECB junior formats for boys and girls of All-Stars for ages up to 7 and Dynamos from ages 8-11, a cricket sports week in the summer holidays and various other junior initiatives – if you are interested, please contact us.

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

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

16 ^h April	2 nd XI	v	Wickersley 2 nd XI
22 nd April	1 st XI	v	Appleby Frodingham 1 st XI
29 th April	1 st XI	v	Hallam 1 st XI
6 th May	2 nd XI	v	Rockingham 1 st XI
13 th May	1 st XI	v	Elsecar 1 st XI

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592

Email: whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk

Andrew Robinson

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The Gardening Year – March

Herbs are an excellent crop for novices and are the perfect solution for small gardens. You can grow them in individual pots inside your home, why not try a few basic herbs on your kitchen windowsill. They are suitable for your outside window boxes, hanging baskets, planters of all sizes and larger plants, such as fennel can be planted in raised beds.

Basil, with its distinctive taste, is a lovely summer herb. The best way to grow Basil is indoors on a sunny windowsill but it will grow well in window boxes and patio containers in a sheltered spot. As long as you have a long hot summer.

Coriander, commonly used in Indian cooking is a popular herb, it is easy to grow and will happily survive indoors or outdoors. Sow coriander every 3 or 4-weeks in situ for a continual supply. Sow in pots of moist multi-purpose compost, sprinkle seeds evenly over the compost and cover with (half an inch) of compost before watering well. Thin out seedlings to (around 2 inches) between plants.

Mint, mint is perfect for containers because many gardeners' view mint as a weed, give it space and it will happily take over. Growing mint in a pot contains the growth and keeps leaves small and tender. It is also an ideal crop for novices and children because it is easy to take care of and quick to grow. Although mint can be grown from seed (sow seed in pots in situ in any type of soil). The easiest way to grow it is from a cutting from a friend. Simply take a sprig or two, pop it in a container of soil and keep it watered and it will take root easily.

Parsley, parsley is not ideal for beginners' because it can be difficult to germinate. However, it is a great plant for window boxes and containers. Parsley is notoriously difficult to germinate, but this doesn't mean you shouldn't try. One trick is to soak the seed in room temperature water for a couple of hours before sowing. Sow the seed in situ in containers of rich compost once the soil and air temperature has warmed up. Traditionally, parsley seed is sown on good Friday (the only day the devil does not rule the soil), if you don't succeed with germination then buy a plant from a garden centre or supermarket.

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 Nettles

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs - Basil, Chives, Dill, Sorrel

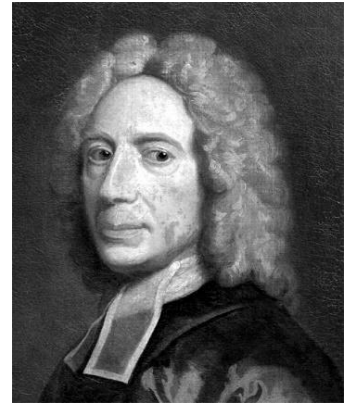
Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

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

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Surveying the Cross

In England in the 1600s, singing in church was confined to simple melodies attached to the words of the psalms. Each line would be sung in turn by a precentor, and the congregation would follow. This was a slow, stilted and rather uninspiring process!



When Isaac Watts was 15 years old, he complained to his father that singing in church was nothing but tuneless dirges. Watt's father, a church deacon, challenged his son that if he could do better with the worship he could go ahead and try. Watts rose to the task in a big way: during his lifetime he wrote over 600 hymns! And from that time, countless poets and composers have followed his example, and enhanced the way we worship God.

Many churches will sing one of Watts' hymns this Easter: When I survey the wondrous cross. It is written as though Watts is standing in front of the cross, gazing at the crucified Jesus, and taking stock of what this all means to him.

Incredibly, Watts describes the Roman device for capital punishment as a 'wondrous cross' and views this as an amazing scene of God's love. The cross was indeed a sight of horror, but it was also one of love where Jesus died for our sins. As Paul put it: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14

Watts realises that anything he has of value pales into insignificance when considering the magnitude of Jesus coming from the glorious realms of heaven to live for a while on earth. As Watts looks at his Saviour dying in agonising pain, he knows there is no place for self-esteem. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us, securing our salvation and it is only about Him we should boast.

Watts uses an imagery of the starkness of the crucifixion with 'sorrow' and 'love'. It was sorrow for our sin that took Jesus to the cross; it was not the nails that held Him there, but His love for us. The final verse is about gratitude and commitment. What can we give to Jesus as a 'thank you'? How can we repay Him? Even if we could give the whole world as a gift to Jesus it would be inadequate — a 'present far too small'.

Our only proper gift can be to offer Him our own 'soul, our life and our all'.

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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

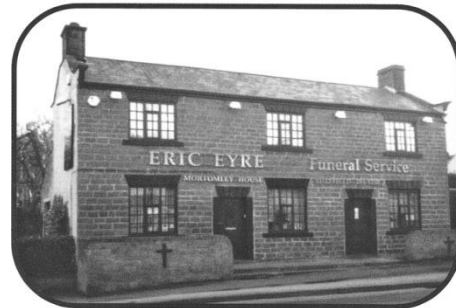
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It is time to eat Watercress

Raw watercress adds a peppery yet smooth edge to dishes and is highly nutritious. Use it in salads in place of the ubiquitous rocket or try a watercress and Marmite sandwich. It is a classic soup ingredient and when cooked has a milder flavour. It's also great in juices and gives carrot-based drinks a lovely bite. Watercress has been cultivated since Roman times. It is referred to in Irish poetry from the 12th century and has been grown in southern England since the early 1800s. Watercress was once popular as a tea, freshly made with lemon and sugar, and it has been used throughout history in Europe and Asia as a tonic for various ills.

A member of the mustard family and related to garden cress. Watercress is a fast-growing semi-aquatic plant that thrives in slightly alkaline water. The proper name for watercress is *Nasturtium officinale*. *Nasturtium* is Latin for 'nose twister', a reference to the plant's pungency. Watercress is rich in vitamin C, calcium, iron and folic acid. It is a cruciferous plant containing anti-cancer phytochemicals such as beta-carotene and flavonoids.

Look for crisp leaves with a deep green colour. Watercress is very perishable but can be kept in good condition for a couple of days by refrigerating it stems-down in a glass of water, covered with a plastic bag. Wash thoroughly just before use.

Ultimate Steak, Stilton & Watercress Sandwiches – serves 2

Ingredients

1 pack 2 Bavette steaks (Flat Iron or Denver steaks)
1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to rub steaks
½ large red onion, thinly sliced
1 tsp balsamic vinegar
25g light brown soft sugar
1 pack of 2 half ciabattas, halved horizontally
1½ tbsp garlic mayonnaise
1 pack watercress
75g – 100g good Stilton, crumbled



Method

1. Take the steak out of the fridge remove wrapping and allow to stand at room temperature for up to 20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 200°C, 375°F, gas mark 6.
2. Place a large frying pan over a medium heat and add the oil. Fry the onion gently for 5-10 minutes until softened. Add the balsamic vinegar and the sugar, then cook for a further 5 minutes until sticky and caramelised. Tip into a bowl, wipe the pan clean and return to a high heat.
3. Rub the steaks with oil and season generously. When the pan is very hot, cook the steaks for 2-3 minutes on each side (slightly longer if the steaks are particularly thick), then place on a board, cover with foil and leave to rest for 5 minutes. Bavette steak is perfect for sandwiches but will become chewy if the pan isn't hot enough or if it is overcooked. It doesn't need long! Make sure you slice it across the grain.
4. Warm the ciabatta pieces in the oven for 5-6 minutes. Remove and spread the bottom half with the mayonnaise and arrange the watercress on top. Thinly slice the steak, and layer up in the sandwich with the Stilton and caramelised onions. Finish with the top layer of bread and serve immediately. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watercress>

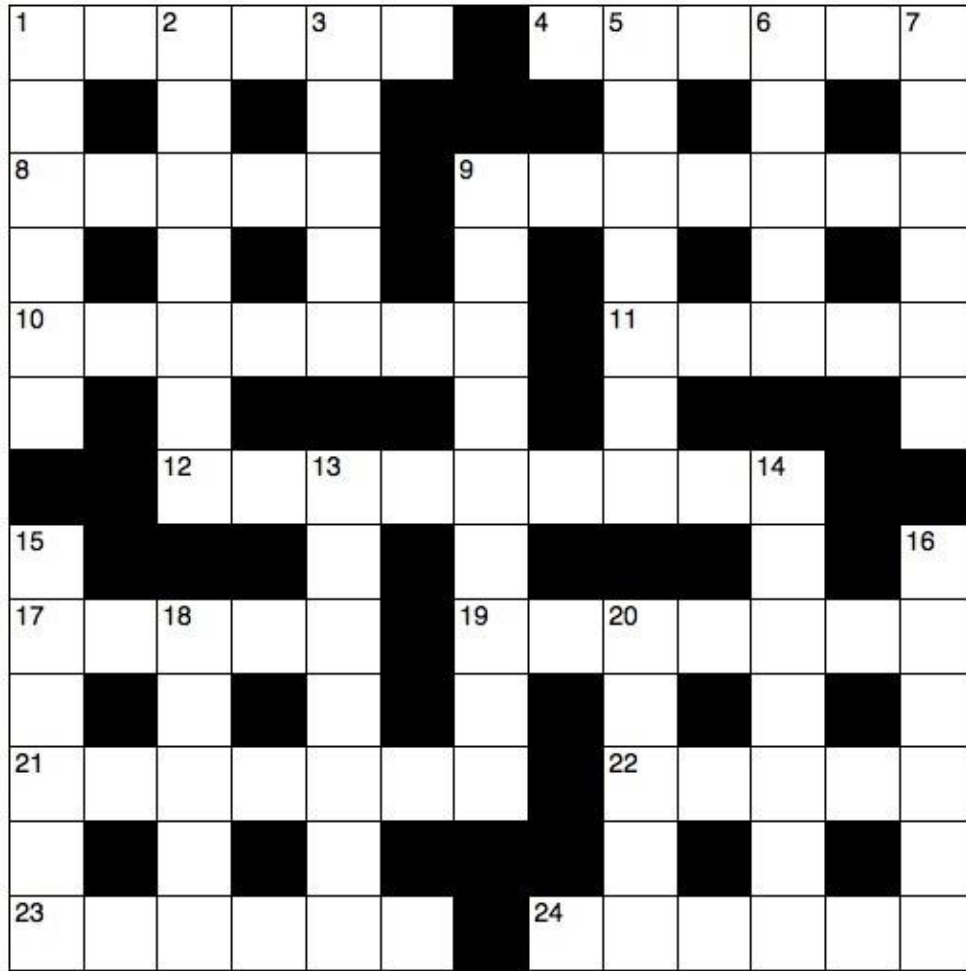
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is —. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

Chapelton & District Probus Club



March saw the Club AGM at which new Chair Nick Tovey was installed. The club is in good health and the annual membership fee was held at the previous year's rate following a number of initiatives to help deal with rising costs. 2023 promises a full range of guest speakers and visits and events. Following the meeting, there was a quiz on past and current football grounds and 20 members enjoyed lunch at Wortley Hall. April will see a new presenter, reporter Nick Johnson with his "Tales from the Press Box" and then we welcome back Paul Adey, breaking with his fascinating series of presentations on cars to what is probably the topic of the moment, "Energy".

The club has now announced its first three visits of the year, the first was to the Wortley Forge in March, then a special limited numbers visit to Sheffield Forgemasters (sold out) in April and then to Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet on Saturday 27th May to which visitors are welcome. Future events include a family day in July and a visit to Wentworth Woodhouse in the early autumn.

The club is focussed on providing a place for retired and semi-retired men to meet in a convivial atmosphere. We welcome new members 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 optional lunch at Wortley Hall)

12th April – Nick Johnson "Tales from the Press Box"

10th May – Paul Adey "The Story of Energy"

14th June – John Hope – "If at First You Don't Succeed"

Contact details: E-Mail chapelton.probus@gmail.com,

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

Andrew Robinson

Why the stars are fading

By the time a child born today becomes an adult, they may be able to see fewer than half the stars that are currently visible. This is not because the stars are fading, but because of ever increasing 'skyglow', or light pollution, which is brightening the night sky by 9.6pc on average each year. So warn researchers at the German Research Centre for Geosciences. And the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) says that the change could see some of the fainter constellations – such as Cancer – fading away, along with astronomical features like the Orion nebula and Andromeda galaxy.

"At this rate of change, a child born in a location where 250 stars are currently visible, would be able to see only about 100 by the time they turned 18," said one scientist. Too much artificial light at night not only impacts our ability to see the stars, but affects animals and plants, who rely on daily and seasonal cycles to determine behaviour and physiological processes.

The researchers published their work in the journal Science. <https://www.science.org/>

Prayers and Poems Page

Easter Prayer 2023 - By Daphne Kitching

Thank you, Father, that you raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter Day and that He is alive now and forever. Thank you that whoever believes in Him and turns away from selfish living and towards you can be forgiven through His name. Thank you that Jesus is the same today as He was then and will always be.

Thank you for the Bible - your inspired, unchanging, and living Word to guide us. Help us to hold fast to Your teaching and not to be led astray. Your Word is truth. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord, that we might be Your faithful, fruitful Resurrection People.

In the name of our living Lord, Jesus. Amen

Chocolate - By Nigel Beeton

If there was nothing like chocolate
How dull would this world of ours be!
A world without wonderful chocolate
Would not be a good world for me!

For chocolate's a way to say 'thank you';
Or 'please' if you want something done.
It's better than mere words or phrases
Cos eating it's terribly fun!

If somebody went and banned chocolate
The consequence of his dread fault
Would be dire beyond contemplation
The world – it would grind to a halt!

For nothing gets done without chocolate
Whether milky or silky or sweet,
Some folk will do wonders for chocolate
For a taste of a chocolaty treat!

So go out and purchase some chocolate
There's lots on your local shop's shelf!
Give someone a gift of some chocolate -
But also - keep some for yourself!

Outside an Empty Tomb - By Nigel Beeton

(These verses are set to the tune 'Down by the Salley Gardens')

"Oh woman, why this weeping?
Oh woman, dry your tears!
Oh woman, cease your weeping
And lay aside your fears!"

"They've borne away my Master!
And laid Him who knows where;
His tomb is standing empty,
And He's no longer there."

"Oh Sir, please will you tell me
Where you have laid Him now?
For you can surely tell me
What they have done, and how;
Yes how may I now find Him
And for His body care?
For I will truly care for Him
If you'll but show me where?"

He said to her, "My Mary!"
She turned and met His eye
She cried with joy, "My Master!"
For she at last knew why
The tomb behind was empty
And why no body lay –
Her Master Christ is Risen
Upon this Easter Day!

Only Jesus - By Daphne Kitching (John 19:17, 1:4)

Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.
Sent out,
Yet choosing to go.
Word of life,
Choosing death,
Knowing the end from the beginning,

Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.
The only one who could,
The only way He could,
He went out
To the Skull Place,
For me.

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
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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
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

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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Please make contact if you wish to play or
learn. Secretary: Joe Webster:
whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk
Website:
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Chapelton 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
chapelton.probus@gmail.com
We are now on face to face see
www.chapelton-probus.org.uk

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

Useful Contacts



<u>Vicar:</u> Revd. Tim Gill	E-mail: ttingill@aol.com	Phone: 257 0002
'Assistant Curate: Revd. Sam Ellmore	revsamellmore@outlook.com	0747 9985 199
Churchwardens: Ann Hackett Jo Hawksworth Michael Waldron		246 7159 246 2852 246 3091
Readers:		
Pastoral Workers:		
Church Office Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm		245 0106
Website	https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/	
Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:
Choir Practice in Church Contact: Lynda Pearce	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	246 3935
Music Group Contact: Andrea Whittaker	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall Contact: Maureen Lambert	1 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Anne Rostron	2.00pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	245 5492
Bell Ringers Contact: Phil Hirst	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings		0780 307 8223
For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar		
Magazine e-mail:	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	



ECCLESFIELD PRIORY
PLAYERS PRESENT



The Stranger



By *Agatha Christie*



Produced by Syl Langan

By arrangement with Concord Theatricals

Tuesday 16th - Friday 19th May 2023

Curtain at 7.30pm

Tickets £11.00 Concessions £10.00 (Tues only)

**EPPiC Theatre, Well Lane, High Street,
Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9TP**



tickets@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

Tel: (0114) 2402624



Ecclesfield Priory Players Productions

www.ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

email: info@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

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