

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February 2023

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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First Words

On **Sunday 5th February at 12 noon** after the morning service there will be Baptisms in Church.

Tim will be licensed as **Oversight Minister and Priest in Charge at St Mark's Grenoside**, alongside Iain Armstrong and Jane Spooner who are being licensed as Focal Ministers on **Monday 6th February at 7pm**. If you would like to attend this service led by Bishop Sophie, please contact the wardens at St Mark's.

Wednesday 8th February 2pm in Church, meeting to plan services and choose hymns for March.

On **Saturday 11th February at 9am** we hold our monthly **Prayer Breakfast**.

Sunday 12th February at 10am it is our **All Age Celebration** service.

Baptism Preparation will be on **Monday 20th February at 7pm** in Church.

Lent Begins on **Ash Wednesday, 22nd February**. There will be a **Communion** service at **7.30pm** in Church. Look out for details of this year's Lent Course.

Finally, on **Sunday 26th February at 6.30pm** we will have our monthly **Prayer and Praise Service**.

God bless
Tim

Lent 2023

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 22nd February.

As usual we will be holding a Lent course in the weeks between Ash Wednesday & Easter.

A few years ago we did ***The Prayer Course*** by Pete Greig.

This year we will be using the follow-up course based on Pete's book ***How to Hear God***

Please would you sign up to say if you would like to attend a group on a week-day afternoon or evening. Also, please let me know if you are happy to meet either on an afternoon or evening.

Thanks, Tim



Front Cover – Snowdrops may appear delicate but it is a hardy little plant, surviving snowfall and cold temperatures. Its Latin classification, *Galanthus nivalis*, literally means 'milk flower of the snow'. A harbinger of spring to come
<https://www.countryfile.com/go-outdoors/walks/snowdrops-guide-facts-how-to-grow-and-the-best-walks-around-the-uk/>

Back Cover – EPPiC Theatre Poster – Sorry Wrong Number

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22nd February - Ash Wednesday; mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12–18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Being bored is good for you

Being bored is a good thing – in fact, it can stimulate you to greater creativity. But keeping boredom at bay with endless scrolling on social media will ensure that your creativity is stifled.

So say researchers at Bath University. They warn that endlessly distracting yourself to avoid “superficial boredom” has the effect of preventing your mind from entering the deeper state of “profound boredom.” In this state of malaise, you are in “existential discomfort” which in turn can stimulate you on to develop new passions and skills.

As one researcher explained: “This research has given us a window to understand how the ‘always-on’, 24/7 culture and devices that promise an abundance of information and entertainment may be fixing our ‘superficial boredom,’ but are actually preventing us from finding more meaningful things.

“Profound boredom may sound like an overwhelmingly negative concept but, in fact, it can be intensely positive if people are given the chance for undistracted thinking and development.”

The new study was published in the journal Marketing Theory.

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Ukraine – one year on

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. Ukraine had been part of the Soviet Union 1922-1991 and even before that had been overshadowed and often overpowered by its larger neighbour. In 1932 millions of Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death in a famine, contrived by Joseph Stalin. This genocide, or Holodomor, is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November.

The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence, by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country, as there were in Crimea before 2014, when it was annexed by Russia.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek-Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding “there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine ... Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion.”

One year on there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

Amen

St James the Least of All

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

On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Thought for the Month

On Tuesday 6th February I will be licensed as Priest in Charge of St Mark's Grenoside. I will be working with the leadership team there as 'Oversight Minister.' At the same service two 'Focal Ministers' will also be licensed.

This new model of ministry - Oversight Ministers with responsibility usually for more than one Church working with a team of Focal Ministers in each Parish is the model that is being rolled out across the Diocese for every parish.

In many ways this is just new labels for what has always been 'best practice' in Parish Ministry. It is not healthy for any Church to be a one man or one woman show. When I arrived at St Mary's there was a flourishing ministry team that I worked alongside. The Diocese have now formalised this arrangement and every Church (including St Mary's) is expected to be working towards this model.

There is already a very experienced ministry team at St Mark's and so I will be working with and supporting them. It will mean that I am available at St Mary's for less time. My main task at St Mary's for the next five years will be to encourage and grow a Focal Ministry Team to work here.

The role of the Focal Ministers is to be leaders in their Church, not simply to 'help the vicar!' Their responsibility is different from that of the wardens, being largely about worship, ministry and mission, but they work with the wardens in seeking God's will for the Church.

As my role changes and I take on these new responsibilities please pray for me. Your prayers matter. As a Church we need to make sure that we have a strong and effective leadership team to work with me. This is why it is vital that we elect our full complement of wardens at the AGM after Easter. Please pray about who should be the wardens and maybe ask God if this is your calling. Please also pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to identify the right people to form the Focal Ministry Team here at St Mary's.

We are moving into a season of change, and although there are elements of the Diocesan strategy that I am unsure of, I am convinced that Churches should be led by teams of Christians, and not by one individual.

If you want to know more about Focal Ministry, there are some booklets at the back of Church, and there is more information on the Diocesan Website. Alternatively have a chat with me!

Please pray for me in my new responsibilities, and also for the leaders and ministers at St Mary's and St Mark's.

God bless,

Tim

For more information see St Marks website: <https://www.stmarksgrenoside.net/home>

Mothers Union Meetings – December / January

December

Our December meeting was an enjoyable time with carols, readings and anecdotes from members. This was followed by traditional mince pies and cakes supplied by members with the usual cup of tea. We wished each other a Happy Christmas and looked forward to next year and a full programme.

January meeting was the AGM

The secretary gave a resume of the year noting that a number of members had died and many had been ill. We had a full room for the reports. Our speakers had been good with many giving excellent advice on looking after our money and avoiding scams and how to keep ourselves safe from fires etc. A full report was provided for everyone.

Pat Blackburn was thanked for her time on the committee and Josie Catlyn volunteered to take her place also Jeni Fryer offered her help when it was needed.

The Vicar then spoke about the importance of family and although we know little about how Jesus was brought up we could be assured that God had been with him and guiding him as surely as he is with us today.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Vicar and everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting is on 8th February, please note the changed date, when we welcome our Diocesan President.

Norma Priest

Diary:

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.

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

Thanks,
Tim

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 4th December 2022

Finley James Hancock-Gostelow

Sunday 8th January 2023

Thaddeus John Henry Marsh

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

Marriages

Thursday 22nd December

Martin Patrick McCullagh and Welly Phipps

Friday 23rd December

Keith Weston and Rebecca Foster

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

Funerals

Thursday 22nd December

Mollie Newbould

Wednesday 28th December

Peter John Fisher

Thursday 29th December

Jayne Alyson Donohoe

2023

Thursday 12th January

Patricia Mary Hawley

Monday 16th January

Pauline Ann Bown

Wednesday 25th January

Joyce Booth

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

27th February: George Herbert, vicar and poet

On this day the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn 'Let all the world/ In every corner sing', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.

He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he had graduated, he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.



The Herbert Niche
Salisbury Cathedral

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

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.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo's development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.



The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

Psalm 139, 13-18

13. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
14. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
15. 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.
16. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
17. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
18. Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you.



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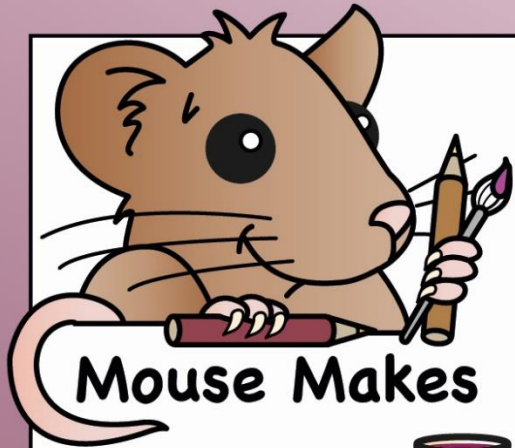
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Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:27-28



- SUPPER
- LAMB • LORD
- DISCIPLES
- TOGETHER
- EVENING
- ROOM • JAR
- WATER • TWELVE
- JESUS • CHRIST
- NIGHT • TOOK
- THANKS
- BLESSING
- BROKE • GIVEN
- COVENANT
- DRINK • EAT
- FORGIVENESS
- SINS • HOLY
- COMMUNION
- EUCCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

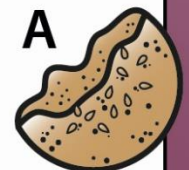
of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



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

Find the words from the questions too!



Editor's Humour

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

Making a band name edible: [Fleetwood Mac and Cheese](#)

3,027 years from today, life will either be really good, or really bad! It will be 5050...

I tried to buy a [Toblerone](#) at the supermarket, but the checkout lady kept sliding it back down the side of the conveyor belt

Overheard in a conversation. "My wife and I have a perfect understanding. I don't try to run her life, and I don't try to run mine".

Notice in decorator's shop: "Husbands choosing paint colours must have a signed note from their wife."

I love the way the [Earth rotates](#), it really makes my day



Prayer for the Month

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity is one of the great 'Anglican' prayers. It comes to us from the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and is a prayer that I love and use very regularly.

For me it is a prayer of access. When I pray this prayer I am reminded that I am in the presence of God, of the Holy One who knows me better than I know myself. God can see through my self-delusions. God sees me as I truly am. So I pray for the fire of the Spirit to cleanse and purify my heart, to make me ready to enter the presence of God and offer my worship.

But the God who knows me loves me, and so I ask for the grace that I may love God and, by my words offered in worship and my life offered in service, may magnify God's name.

We use this prayer at almost every service at St Mary's. At times of course we simply repeat these very familiar words without giving them much thought. But I invite you, when you are next in Church not simply to **say** this prayer, but to **pray** it. To give it your attention and to make it your prayer as you consciously come into the presence of the One who knows and loves you.

As we worship God may our words and thoughts be accepted. As we live our lives may we magnify and glorify the God who is revealed in Christ.

God bless you. Amen.

Come reign in me

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him
Whose strength will see us safely through
each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;
Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one;
Blessed be thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let thy will be done.

By Sam Doubtfire

February 14th - Valentine's Day



There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14th February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

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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

Looking back on the space shuttle Columbia

Twenty years ago, on 1st February 2003, the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

It was the second space shuttle disaster after Challenger, which saw a catastrophic failure during launch in 1986. In both cases the “organisational culture” at NASA was blamed, because engineers’ advice was ignored.

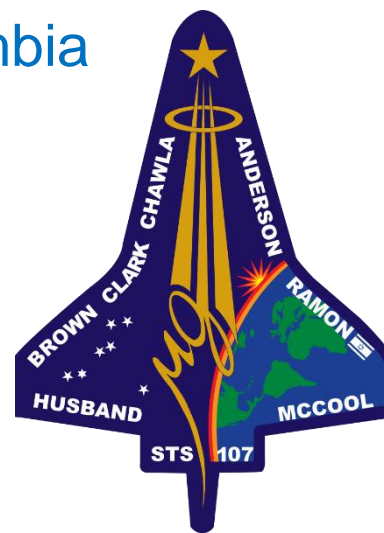
This second disaster led to the suspension of the space shuttle programme. Instead, US astronauts fly to the International Space Station on Russian Soyuz rockets or aboard commercial spacecraft.

The Columbia disaster was caused by a large piece of foam falling from an external tank and making a hole in the aircraft’s wing during launch. This allowed gases to get into the shuttle during re-entry, causing its disintegration and the death of the astronauts, who almost certainly lost consciousness before the shuttle broke up.

It would have been possible to examine pictures of the breached wing and look at possible remedies before re-entry, but NASA officials declined the opportunity. The search for debris over 2,000 square miles took weeks. Some 84,000 pieces were eventually recovered – nearly 40 per cent of Columbia by weight. Enough human remains were found to identify all crew members by DNA.

Seven asteroids discovered in July 2001 were named after the astronauts. The landing site of the Mars rover Spirit was named Columbia Memorial Station, and it included a plaque to the Columbia crew. Many other memorials are in place elsewhere.

Columbia had been the first space shuttle to fly in space – in April 1981 – and it completed 27 successful missions.



Insignia Image by NASA - Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=858875>

Magazine Issues 2023

Issue	Deadline Tuesday	Print Date Thursday
February	24th January	26th January
March	28th February	2nd March
April	28th March	30th March
May	25th April	27th April
June	30th May	1st June
July	27th June	29th June
August	25th July	27th July
September	29th August	31st August
October	26th September	28th September
November	31st October	2nd November
Dec/Jan	28th November	30th November

The Gardening Year – February

Strawberries, few crops are more satisfying to grow than strawberries. Not only do they look wonderful, but they taste far better than anything you will ever buy.

Suitable Containers, Strawberries are perfect for any gardener, regardless of size of plot because they will thrive in virtually any container. You can grow them in hanging baskets, grow bags or even by specially designed strawberry planters. If you want to grow them in window boxes, make sure the container is a minimum of 8 inches so it can hold enough water.

Soil, strawberries like a fertile, well-drained soil.

Care and Position. Plant strawberry plants late spring or early summer when all risk of frost has passed. Strawberries like full sun and should have straw placed around the plants to keep moisture in the soil and to allow the fruits to grow up off the soil. They will tolerate cold winters, but you can cover them with fleece if the weather is particularly harsh. Varieties, early strawberry varieties include Christine which has good mildew resistance, Cambridge is popular with beginners because it is disease resistant and reliable, it is ready to harvest mid-season Judibell is ready very late in the season, if you successfully grow one of each of these varieties you can be enjoying strawberries from late spring to early autumn.

Pests and Diseases, Strawberries are prone to Mould, but keeping the fruits off the soil with a layer of straw can help. Slugs and birds enjoy strawberries so you will need to protect them from being eaten with netting and perhaps slug pellets.

Gooseberries, I love Gooseberries so I grow a lot of plants on my allotment and also in pots.

Good news: if your grow area has little sun and warmth, you can still grow fruit: Gooseberries will tolerate cold weather admirably and are pretty unfussy about soil conditions too.

Soil, Gooseberries need good drainage, but the quality of the compost or soil is not important, as long as it is disease free, you can use old compost for your gooseberry bushes.

Care and Position, plant gooseberry bushes early autumn and prune them in late winter. Each autumn, scrape off the top of the compost a few inches and replace with fresh. Gooseberries do not like to be over watered, so you must make sure the container drains well. Feed every month during the growing season.

Pruning, prune mid-winter and take out any crowded branches, if the fruit grows too close together it can rot.

Varieties, Hinnonmaki Red and Wenham's Industry, is red and great for beginners and is virtually resistant to mildew.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – February

Vegetables - Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Truffles (Black), Turnips

Fruit - Bananas, Blood Oranges, Clementines, Kiwi Fruit, Lemons, Oranges, Passion Fruit, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Rhubarb

Meat - Guinea Fowl, Hare, Partridge, Turkey, Venison

Fish – Clams, Cockles, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Mussels, Oysters, Red Mullet, Salmon, Scallops (Queen), Skate, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

The unlikely patron saint of television

It was 65 years ago, on 17th February 1958, that St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had still been able to see and hear it miraculously on the wall of her room.

St Clare was born Chiara Offreduccio in Assisi and was one of the first followers of St Francis of Assisi. Both her parents were from wealthy families, and her mother Ortolana was both generous and devout, eventually joining her daughter's monastery – as did two of Clare's sisters: one of them, Catarina, eventually became St Agnes of Assisi.

After hearing St Francis preach, Clare became devoted to poverty, humility and love, and founded the Order of Poor Ladies, which eventually became known as the Poor Clares. She became quite ill towards the end of her life and was unable to attend church, but apparently the images and sounds of the Mass appeared in full on the wall of her room. She is also the patron saint of computer screens, sore eyes and embroidery.

Clare wrote the first monastic Rule of Life known to have been written by a woman and in 1216 became abbess of San Damiano. The life of the sisters there consisted of manual labour and prayer. Reportedly they "went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence".

Many places have been named after St Clare: Mission Santa Clara, founded by Spanish missionaries in northern California in 1777, has given its name to the university, city, county and valley in which it sits, nicknamed "Silicon Valley" home of computer technology since the 1970s. Southern California's Santa Clara River is hundreds of miles to the south and gave its name to the nearby city of Santa Clarita. The early California missions were founded by Franciscan Friars, who had a special devotion to Saint Clare.

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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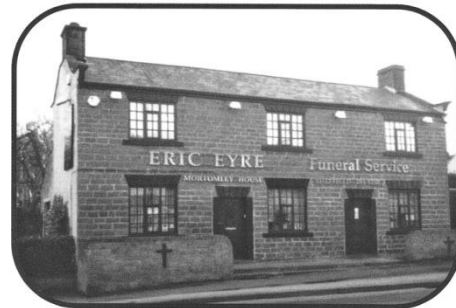
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It is time to eat Kale

Kale is a very handy ingredient for seasonal eaters as it is one of the few green vegetables that is more abundant and flavourful during the coldest months of the year. It can be substituted for cabbage or spinach and makes a fine side dish when blanched and sautéed with garlic, a little soy and a sprinkling of chopped roasted nuts is a lovely addition. It also makes an excellent ingredient in hearty, warming soups such as Kale and Chestnut Soup and the traditional Portuguese dish Caldo Verde.

Kale has been cultivated for over 2,000 years. In much of Europe, it was the most widely eaten green vegetable until the Middle Ages when cabbages became more popular. Historically it has been particularly important in colder regions due to its resistance to frost. In nineteenth century Scotland kail was used as a generic term for 'dinner' and all kitchens featured a kail-pot for cooking. A member of the same family as the cabbage - Brassica oleracea - most of the kale eaten in this country is curly leaved and belongs to the species acephala. Flat leaved kales are also grown but tend to be tougher and are now used mainly for animal feed. Cavolo Nero – the long leaf Italian variety is now available in most supermarkets.

Kale should have a fresh green colour with moist, crisp, unwilted leaves. Young, small-leaved specimens are more tender; bigger leaves are well suited for use in soups. Keep in a plastic bag in the fridge. Kale becomes increasingly bitter and strongly flavoured the longer it is kept and so is best eaten soon after buying. Give kale a good wash in a sink full of water to remove any dirt clinging to the inside of the leaves. If the stems are very small and tender they can be cooked with the leaves. Stems that are thicker, but still tender, can be cut off and cooked for a minute or two before the leaves are added. Any thick, tough stalks should be discarded.

Kale has a relatively low moisture content and therefore does not shrink as much as other greens and requires a longer cooking time. Except when very young, kale is not particularly pleasant when undercooked and should be served just soft rather than al dente. Steam, simmer or sauté gently for several minutes until thoroughly tender. Some stock can be added for extra flavour. Kale is a nutritionally rich food containing vitamins A, C, E, a substantial mineral content including manganese, iron, calcium and potassium, and phytochemicals such as sulphoraphane.

Recipes



Orecchiette with Cavolo Nero, Anchovies & Pangrattato

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/orecchiette-cavolo-nero-anchovies-pangrattato>



How to make the perfect Caldo Verde

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2021/mar/10/how-to-make-the-perfect-caldo-verde-recipe-felicity-cloake>



Winter greens with bacon butter

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/winter-greens-bacon-butter>

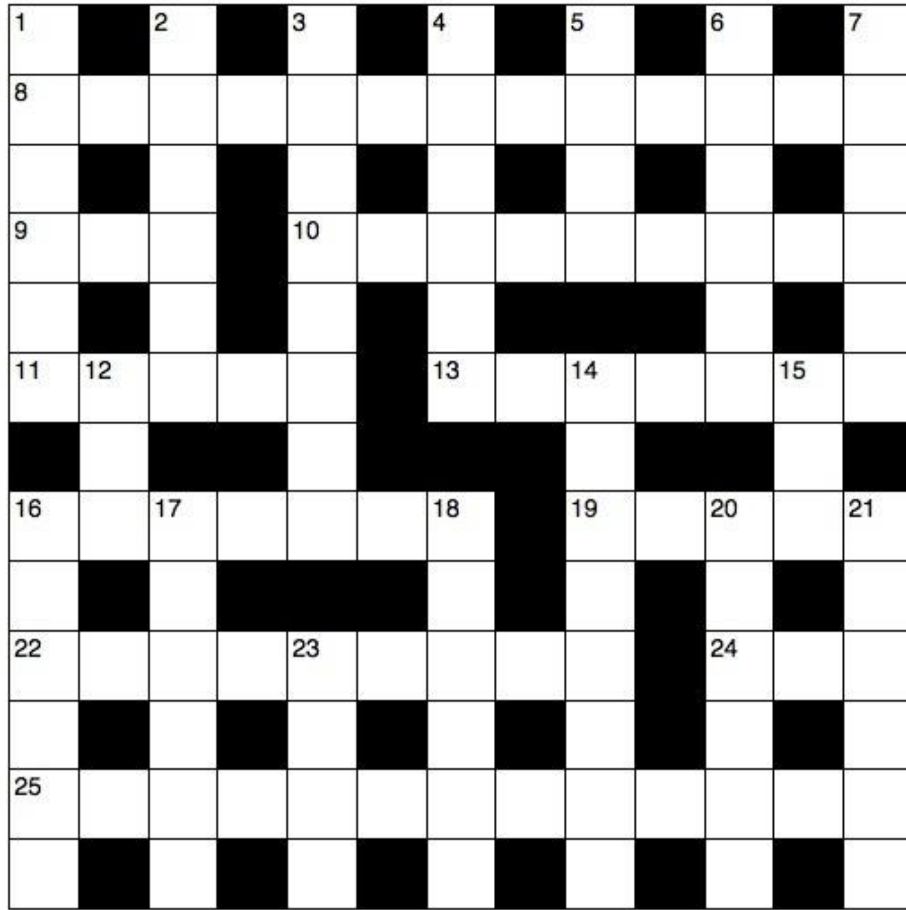
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 8** Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) **25** How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

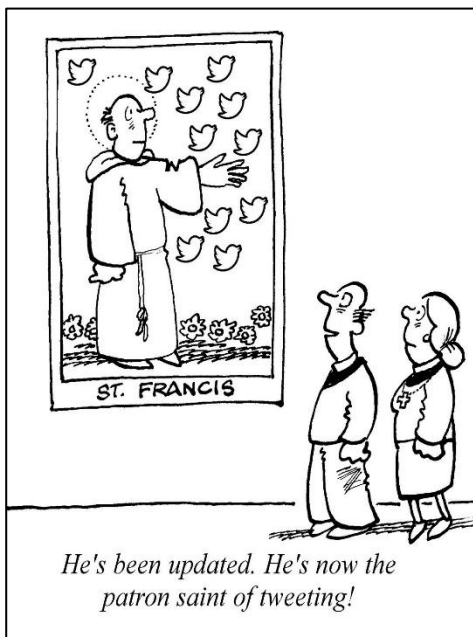
Clues Down

- 1** Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: '— salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel... 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?"'



Chapelton & District Probus Club



Our speaker at the January meeting was Stephen Gaye, speaking on "The East Coast Main Line London to York." Stephen presented a series of slides showing places of interest along the track as it runs north towards York. These included views of stations no longer used for stopping, bridge works and a whole series of locomotives. In the early 1960s, steam was replaced by Diesel-electric traction, including the Deltics and sections of the line were upgraded so that trains could run at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour. With the demand for higher speed, British Rail introduced Inter-City 125 high-speed trains between 1976 and 1981. In 1973, a Class 41 (an HST prototype), achieved a top speed of 143 mph in a test run. The track

currently runs British Rail Class 800 Azuma bi-mode multiple unit trains. 36 members attended the presentation and 24 enjoyed lunch at Wortley Hall.

Plans for trips to Wortley Top Forge, Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and Forge Masters are underway, members' families and friends are always welcome on these trips – numbers permitting.

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 optional lunch at Wortley Hall)

8th February – BBC Sports Reporter Peter Slater "So you still don't know who I am"

14th February – 12:30 for 13:00, Winter Lunch at Wortley Hall – all welcome

8th March – Annual Meeting and Quiz

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

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

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

Andrew Robinson

Church-speak

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JUSTICE: When your children grow up and have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Anglicans can recognise, besides gyros and baklava.

Prayers and Poems Page

For Candlemas - *By Daphne Kitching*

Dear Lord, Here we are in February – month of cold days, winter days, but days that promise hope and signs of Spring. Snowdrops and lengthening light; echoes of the hope and light that Jesus brought to Simeon and Anna all those years ago in the Temple.

Thank you, Lord, that you always bring light, you always bring hope and peace and joy when we put our trust in Jesus, our Saviour. Jesus, Lord of all our days and seasons.

In his name we thank you, as we look to his Light. **Amen.**

Lent - *By Nigel Beeton*

The monk, within his monastery,
The ploughman and the lord;
Would keep the Lent time patiently
And keep a simple board.

Rich food nor meat could touch their lip
Just plain and simple fare;
Dried bread in sauce they could not dip –
Or face the Parson's glare!

Today, such things don't tend to be
We've left them in the past!
Just those within that monastery
Who keep the Lenten fast.

But all should come to love anew
The treasured time of Lent
And spend more time with Father, who
Rewards such time well spent!

Come reign in me - *By Sam Doubtfire*

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him
Whose strength will see us safely through
each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;
Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one;
Blessed be thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let thy will be done.

Disturb us, Lord

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 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.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

A Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son.
Amen.

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

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

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

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: Stephanie Hartshorne	1 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	245 9435
Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Anne Rostron	7:30 pm 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	



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