

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March 2023

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First Words

In March we keep Lent as a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Easter feast - this year Good Friday falls on the 7th of April and Easter Day on the 9th.

During Lent we will be holding a Lent course on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30pm and repeated on Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm.

As usual every Thursday at 9.30am we have our Midweek Communion.

Sunday 5th March 12noon Baptisms in Church and at **5pm** there will be a wedding rehearsal.

From **Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th March** the main path from the Lych Gate to Church will be closed off for the path to be re-pointed (weather permitting).

On **Monday 6th March at 7.30pm** the **PCC** will meet in Church.

On **Wednesday 8th March at 2pm** we will meet in Church to plan the services & music for April - this will include planning for Holy Week and Easter.

Saturday 11th March, 9am Prayer Breakfast in Church.

On **Sunday 12th March at 6.30pm** the **Steel City Choristers** will be leading **Choral Evensong** in Church - an opportunity not to miss!

Mother's Day falls on **Sunday 19th March** this year. At **10am** we will have our monthly **All Age Celebration**. This is a good opportunity to invite family and friends to Church to join in the celebrations.

The Church **Fabric Committee** will meet on **Monday 20th March at 4pm** in Church, and the **Finance Team** will meet on **Wednesday 22nd March at 2pm** in Church.

On **Sunday 26th March** we enter the final part of Lent, known as Passiontide. There will be a celebration of the **Eucharist at 10am** and at **6.30pm Prayer and Praise**.

On **Monday 27th March at 2pm** we will be hosting the **Mothers Union** service to commemorate the **Feast of the Annunciation**.

On **Tuesday 28th March** the **Feoffees** will meet in Church at **6pm**.

On **Thursday 30th March Ecclesfield Primary School** will be holding their **Easter Service** at School.

And on **Saturday 1st April at 3pm** we have our first **wedding** of the year!

Holy Week begins on Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday.

God bless, Tim



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Back Cover – Rainbow on a winter's day – the church gardeners

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Time for some good news?

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

If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone.

Newly published research shows that more than seven out of ten news publishers are concerned about increasing levels of 'news avoidance.'

More and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. And that may present an opportunity for Christians to present our life-giving gospel message.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has published its 'Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2023' report, based on a wide-ranging survey of 303 news leaders in 53 countries. It explores the latest developments in journalism and the priorities for the year ahead.

One area of deep concern was increasing levels of 'news avoidance' with 72 per cent of publishers worried about the phenomenon. Many readers and viewers were avoiding news, especially, says the report "around important but often depressing topics like Ukraine and climate change."

Does this widespread 'news avoidance' have any messages for the Church and for Christians generally? Well, maybe two.

The first is for ourselves. How guilty are we of scrolling past bad news on our social media feed, switching off the TV or radio, or pausing a podcast when the subject matter becomes tough to take?

That's tempting to do, but it's important for Christians to be aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently, and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place.

The second is about how we present our gospel message. We have 'good news' to proclaim, while we are living in a time when people are turning away from news of any kind, seeking instead to look for entertainment and distraction.

In our preaching, in our personal testimonies and in the wide range of ways that we communicate the gospel message of 'abundant life' through Jesus Christ, we are called to be positive and upbeat.

In a world that is turning away from bad news, we have good news to offer. Our mission is to present this good news in ways that can catch the attention of a distracted world that's tired of the gloom and looking for something better.

Revd Peter Crumpler

The Vicar's lost his iPad!

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds, is one of the larger parish churches in the country, but any church is replete with little hidey holes where an absent-minded clergyman can place things and mislay them:

The Vicar's lost his iPad –
Disaster's come to church!
His sermon's on that iPad
It's left him in the lurch!

He's been looking for that iPad
For most of half an hour,
He's searched the chancel and the nave
So now he's up the tower!

Oh! Where's he put that iPad?
He had it when he came!
He's searching high and searching low
It's driving him insane!

The angels in the hammer beams
For several hundred years
Have witnessed proper order
But now they're all in tears.

For chaos reigns below them
Upon this modern day
For everyone is searching now –
Both clergyman and lay!

The Vicar found his iPad
Tonight, we'll all be sleeping!
He sent a message from his phone
And set his iPad beeping!

And as he holds his iPad
We feel his happy glow;
But could he not have done that trick
That half-an-hour ago?

The answer comes upon us
That trick he could not do!
For, in the caverns of our church
He'd lost his smartphone, too!

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'Let our family look after yours'

17th March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

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

30th March: John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? John Climacus (d 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q); during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote *The Ladder to Paradise*, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.

God in The Arts

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art. If you use the image from Sandro Botticelli's 'Primavera', please credit: Sandro Botticelli, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Sandro Botticelli’s ‘Primavera’

Each month we are exploring a painting that celebrates the glory and wonder of creation. In this month of March the world around us is moving from the cold and harshness of winter to new birth as the earth comes to life again in the season of spring. It is the theme of ‘Primavera’ by the 15th century Florentine artist, Sandro Botticelli. His work in the Sistine Chapel in Rome brought him to the attention of the Medici court, which commissioned this painting in 1482. The Medici dominated the political life of Florence, but Cosimo and his descendants were also great patrons of the arts. Humanism, which debated the place of reason in a world of faith, was the mood of the day in court life, and the work of artists at that time expressed the human form in all its beauty.

Scholars have never agreed on the exact meaning of ‘Primavera,’ but it is certainly a celebration of beauty and fertility. We can identify a host of classical figures: Mercury on the left of the canvas separating the clouds so that Spring may come; Zephyr, the west wind, on the right, who is pursuing Chloris; Flora, the goddess of abundance robed in a colourful dress and adorned with flowers. In the centre we see Venus, the goddess of beauty, with a blindfolded Cupid above, preparing to shoot an arrow at the three Graces, whose arms are joined in a stately dance. The setting is a wooded garden where the trees are filled with oranges, myrtle surrounds Venus, and wondrous flowers spring up from the earth.

At first glance the sensuousness and fruitfulness seem almost profane. But we look again and think we see not Venus in the centre, but the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose own fruitfulness gave birth to the Saviour. The three figures by her side could be the Christian virtues of beauty, truth and goodness who dance in her honour, while all around God’s creation blossoms forth to bring joy and new life. It is the world of the Song of Solomon, which the early Fathers could only accept as an allegory of Christian love, where the individual soul seeks the Saviour. But that book of the Old Testament was written in praise of the love that moves human life, as much as it moves the universe. And that can only be good because God the creator is good.

The writer invites the beloved to accompany her to the fields and vineyards and find fruits in blossom and plants in bloom: a wilderness transformed by growth and goodness. Just so, we enter the garden of this painting. The characters may be classical, some may be Christian, but as we look we see a creative Love that transforms the winter of death and darkness into light and Spring – the birthday of creation.

St James the Least of All

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

On the perils of moving from city to country

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Those parishioners of yours who won millions on the Lottery and moved into this parish have created quite a stir. It was perhaps a little unwise of them to tell everyone the reason why they had become so wealthy. While most of our parishioners also do the Lottery, few would ever admit it in public. (Since your friends arrived, the entire PCC is buying ever more lottery tickets, but from the shop in the NEXT village, to try and keep it secret.)

However, your family still has much to learn about our country ways. Buying the old Dower House was impressive; and spending a small fortune re-stocking the gardens was certainly commendable. But someone should have told them about installing cattle grids. It must have been quite a shock for them to wake up one morning and find the thirty sheep from the neighbouring field had wandered in for breakfast.

Their brand-new purple Ferrari has certainly brightened up the country lanes around here. The noise it makes as it roars up behind you quite quickens the pulse. Mrs Beamish had been suffering with low blood pressure for months; she says she is quite cured now. The Colonel, who is all for the community supporting the church, then asked if the newcomers would drive the bishop around on the day he came to do his tour of the parish. The Colonel thought that an open-topped purple Ferrari would make a great bishop-mobile; and the newcomers were so kind to agree. What a shame that they decided to accomplish the several miles of parish lanes in record time: the bishop barely even saw the several farmers that they nearly ran down. His new nickname in this parish is: The Purple Peril.

The newcomers have installed security lighting, which is understandable. But now I wonder how much sleep they are getting, as the rabbits, foxes, and badgers who live in their grounds keep it flood-lit for much of the night. Meanwhile, the Colonel is grumbling about the effect of light pollution on his young pheasants in the woods nearby.

But these little inconveniences apart, I am sure they will soon feel at home. I feel confident that by the third generation, they will be properly settled in.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Mrs Beamish

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Thought for the Month

As I type my words for the March magazine I am at home shielding after a positive Covid test! The good thing is that this experience has reminded me that I am not indispensable. Thanks to Sam and John and the wardens Church went on as normal on Sunday. I probably wasn't even missed - and that is a good thing.

Being ill and absent is a reminder that it really isn't all about me. I have always tried to make the work and worship of the Church a collaborative effort, because I have always seen that God has given gifts of leadership, of teaching, preaching and leading worship to many people. I have seen clearly that Church is better and worship is more enriching when it is the offering of all those that God has called and gifted.

This is why I support the Diocesan policy of Focal and Oversight ministers. The names are new, but the practice is as ancient as the Church. God gives gifts of leadership and of ministry to a wide and diverse group of people, and God is glorified when those gifts are used to minister to God's people.

This Lent can I encourage you to prayerfully ask what gifts God has given you to build up the Body of Christ here in Ecclesfield? What gifts of leadership and organisation, what gifts of leading worship, nurturing the faith of children, reaching out to others with the love of Jesus, preaching or teaching have you been blessed with? How can you use those gifts entrusted to you to glorify God and bless others?

At St Mary's we need people to take responsibility for the life and worship and ministry of Christ's Church here. We need wardens, we need people to serve on the finance and the buildings teams, we need people to help organise events, we need sidespeople, we need PCC members, and, of course we need people to train as Focal Ministers to head up our welcome and help lead worship.

Paul gives us a vision of the local Church, the Body of Christ, where all use their gifts for the life and worship and mission of the local Church (Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Corinthians 12). When this happens, the Body is healthy, God's people are served and God is glorified.

May this Lent be for us a time to re-discover our calling as the Body of Christ here in Ecclesfield.

God bless,
Tim

Lent 2023

There is still time to join our Lent Course this year.

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*.

The groups will meet in Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm or Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm.

All welcome. God bless, Tim

Mothers Union

Mothers Union

We welcomed our Diocesan President to our latest meeting. She told us of the many initiatives being undertaken by the MU to encourage growth. Often our lack promoting the work done by members is at fault, we fail to tell what has been achieved in so many countries, how many have learnt to read and learned to manage their money which helps them and their families to eat better and get an education. Other projects help with those suffering abuse and affected by war and displacement.

There are projects in the United Kingdom also concerned with abuse, work with prisoners and families and many branches support their communities through involvement with their churches.

We are hoping the members of church will support two projects we are doing.

- ❖ The first is collecting Easter eggs for the foodbank at St Pauls.
- ❖ The second is a Coffee Morning to raise money for the women of Sudan. This is to raise awareness of the horrors so many women suffer through rape, displacement, losing their husbands in war and being unable to feed themselves and their children.

The Coffee Morning will be held in church on Saturday 18th March between 10 - 12 pm.

We hold our Deanery Service for Lady Day on Monday 27th March at 2pm in Church. Our next meeting is on 5th April and Rev. Sam Elmore is the speaker.

Norma Priest

Diary:

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.



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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 5th February

Samuel Lowe - Reya Dotty Frances Fowler

Sunday 19th February

Melissa Paige Wilkinson - Roan Heeley - Natalie Grayson

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

Funerals

Wednesday 1st February

Rene Green

Monday 6th February

William Walker

Thursday 16th February

Arthur Edgar Anthony Jones (Tony)

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

21st March: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury & Reformation Martyr

If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).



Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the C of E. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic Queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21st March 1556.

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

The Book of Common Prayer - It is difficult to ascertain how much of the Prayer Book is Cranmer's personal composition. Generations of liturgical scholars have been able to track down the sources that he used, including the Sarum Rite, writings from Hermann von Wied, and several Lutheran sources including Osiander and Justus Jonas. It is more problematic to determine how Cranmer worked on the book and with whom he worked. Where information about his possible helpers is lacking, he is given the credit for the editorship and the overall structure of the book.

God in the Sciences

Editor: This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. The graphic is from Pixabay, and may be used without a credit..

A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

A tadpole is the larval stage in the life cycle of an amphibian. Most tadpoles are fully aquatic, though some species of amphibians have tadpoles that are terrestrial. Tadpoles have some fish-like features that may not be found in adult amphibians such as a lateral line, gills and swimming tails. As they undergo metamorphosis, they start to develop functional lungs for breathing air, and the diet of tadpoles changes drastically.

A few amphibians, such as some members of the frog family Brevicipitidae, undergo direct development – i.e., they do not undergo a free-living larval stage as tadpoles – instead emerging from eggs as fully formed "froglet" miniatures of the adult morphology. Some other species hatch into tadpoles underneath the skin of the female adult or are kept in a pouch until after metamorphosis. Having no hard skeletons, it might be expected that tadpole fossils would not exist. However, traces of biofilms have been preserved and fossil tadpoles have been found dating back to the Miocene.

Tadpoles are eaten as human food in some parts of the world and are mentioned in various folk tales from around the world.





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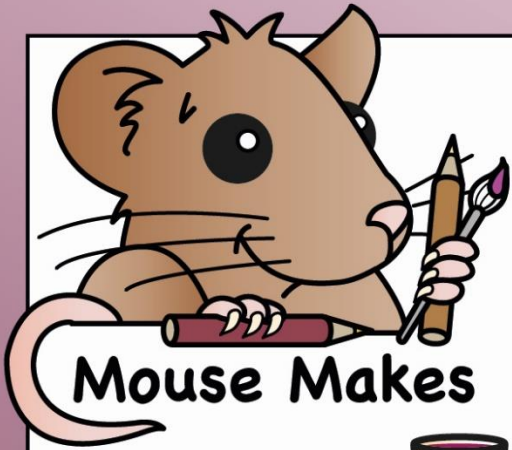
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Mouse Makes

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

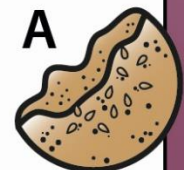
of me."

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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 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!

"You should sit in meditation for 20 minutes a day, unless you are too busy; then you should sit for an hour". [Old Zen](#) saying

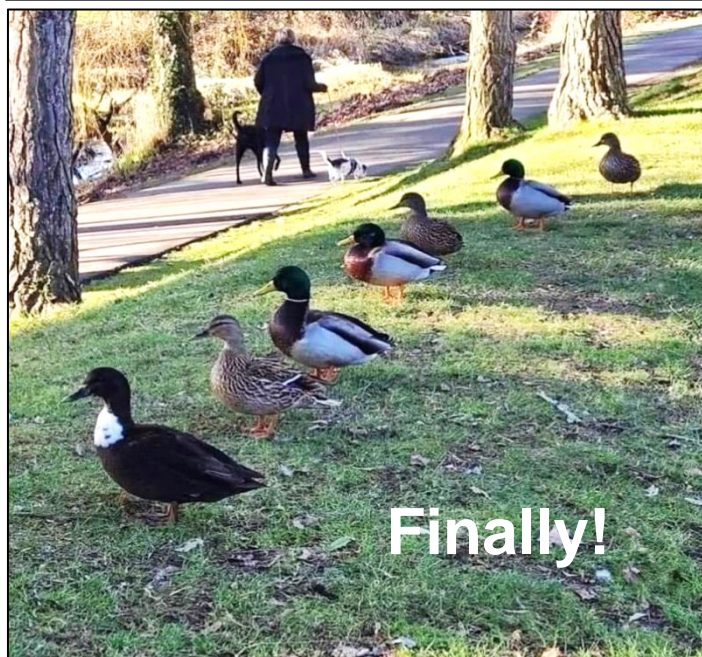
One of the weirdest things about being an adult is having a favourite [hob ring](#), yet nobody talks about it.

"A remarkable bird is the [Pelican](#): - Its beak can hold more than its belly can"

One big difference between men and women is that if a woman says, "[Smell this](#)", it usually smells nice.

Nervous female airline passenger asks [Flight attendant](#). "How often do planes crash?". Flight attendant replies, "Just once"

If a woman says "Do what you want" – Do not do what you want. Stand still, do not blink, do not answer, don't even breathe, just [Play Dead](#).



Sylvester Stallone says he wants to make a movie about classical music.

He says,
"I will be Beethoven."

Jean Claude Van Damme says,
"I'll be Mozart."

Arnold Schwarzenegger said,
"C'mon guys, don't make me say it!"

Bach Toccata and Fugue in D Minor
<https://youtu.be/ho9rZjlsyYY>

Prayer for the Month

***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.***

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is prayed at Morning and Evening Prayer and at the Celebration of Communion from Ash Wednesday throughout Lent and Passiontide. This prayer comes to us from Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer and was part of the worship of the English Church before the Reformation.

During Lent we call to mind our failure as disciples of Jesus, especially our failure to fulfil Christ's first Commandment that we 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves'. Lent is a season marked by confession our failure, by fasting and above all by repenting.

To repent literally means to turn; and in Lent we turn to face God. But despite what some preachers past and present would have us believe, the God we turn to is not a God of anger or of hatred. This great and ancient collect reminds us during Lent that God hates nothing, nothing at all in creation. The God who shows us His true face in Jesus Christ is a God of love, and in Lent we see this in God's forgiveness to all who turn to Him in their failures. God meets our sin, our failure to love with sorrow certainly, but also with mercy.

Lent leads us to Holy Week, to the Cross and to the empty tomb. There we see the depth of God's love for His broken and fallen creation. We see that God loves us to the bitter end; to death and beyond. We also see the triumph of that love as death and hatred and evil are defeated once and for all.

In Lent we come to a God who loves us despite our failures and whose love heals our broken human nature. We turn our face to the God whose face is always turned to us in Christ. We confess our failures and sins to the One who has already died for us. This is why, for me, Lent is a season of confession and repentance, but also a season of hope.

God bless,

Tim

If Biblical Headlines were written by today's secular media

On crossing of the Red Sea: -

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE
Pursuing environmentalists killed

On David vs. Goliath: -

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION
Psychologist questions influence of rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel: -

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY - 400 KILLED

On the birth of Christ: -

STABLE OCCUPIED, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS
Animal Rights activists enraged by insensitive couple

On feeding the 5,000: -

PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH
Disciples mystified at leader's callous behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers: -

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED
'Faith Healer' causes bankruptcy

On raising Lazarus from the dead: -

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK
Will reading now has to be delayed

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac: -

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE
Local farmer's investment lost

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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

Burnley ministers tell their stories via TV

At the height of the Covid pandemic, the work of two Christian ministers in Burnley, Lancashire, moved TV viewers across the world. They were filmed by a BBC crew handing out food parcels and seeking to help people suffering deeply because of the lockdown.

The two men – Pastor Mick Fleming and Father Alex Frost – have now published books telling their remarkable stories.

In ‘Blown Away: From Drug Dealer to Life Bringer,’ (SPCK) Mick Fleming tells how he struggled with a traumatic childhood and turned to drugs and to crime, but ultimately came to faith following a series of events that many will call miraculous.

He explains how he launched ‘Church on the Street’ in Burnley – one of the poorest parts of England – after he sat on the ground outside McDonald’s “with a suitcase of clothes, tea and coffee in flasks, and sandwiches, and a packet of cigarettes in my pocket.”

Pastor Mick tells how angry he felt when the churches closed their doors during the Covid lockdowns. People were suffering, going hungry and the Church was, he writes, nowhere to be seen.

In ‘Our Daily Bread’ (Harper North), the Rev Alex Frost gives telling insights into what Christian ministry is like in Britain in the 2020s, serving some of the country’s poorest people. He shows the role played by one Church of England priest, and his church, in serving the people of his Burnley parish, as they face life’s challenges and setbacks.



He writes “Here, in a deprived northern town, where the headlines usually scream poverty and destitution, there is also an undaunted spirit and an unwavering survival instinct. People here are stronger than you could ever imagine.”

Father Alex tells the stories of some of the people with whom he ministers, under headings such as Love, Broken, Calling, Grief and Transformation. As he tells their stories, he reveals his own, including working as a football referee, stand-up comic and an Argos store manager. Father Alex weaves his own story among those of the parishioners he serves.

He writes, with passion, “I want to see the Church of England change dramatically, coming out of its middle-class bubble, its ‘Waitrose worship’ and start to represent who we are as a nation now.”

The Gardening Year – March

Autumn Fruiting Raspberries are ideal for containers because they like free draining soil. If their roots get too wet, they rot easily. There are two types of raspberries, those that fruit in summer and those that fruit in autumn. Autumn fruiting raspberries are easier to manage in containers because they don't need any support, suitable containers, select a large pot or tub around 18 inches.

Soil, raspberries like rich compost and, need firmly planting, really firm them in and plant deep into the soil. as they like good quality soil, replace as much as the soil as possible every year. If you can get hold of it, well-rotted manure is a great addition to the compost when planting your raspberry's.

Care and Position, plant raspberry bushes in autumn and keep in a sheltered spot. While raspberry's prefer full sun, it is worth trying them if you have less than a sunny spot as they can tolerate shade. Water them regularly to ensure the fruits swell. Pruning, cut plants down to 4 inches during the winter and your plants will flourish.

Varieties, Autumn Bliss, produces short canes that don't need supporting in sheltered areas. The berries are large, heavy cropping and have a good flavour.

Pest and Diseases, Aphids can be a problem on raspberries, keep an eye out for them and rub off gently with your finger and thumb or carefully use a jet of water to blast them off, but don't damage the delicate fruit.

Harvesting, raspberries are ready when they pull away easily from the bush. Once they start to ripen you will need to get there before the birds do. Raspberries are delicious when eaten fresh or added to smoothies and they freeze well too.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – March

Why no meat - Some suggest Christians began fasting from meat because it wasn't as accessible as fish in the Mediterranean world, and abstaining meant foregoing a luxury. Others propose that Christians don't eat warm-blooded animals on Fridays because of the bloodshed of the crucifixion, which happened on Good Friday. Meanwhile, others propose that Christians eat seafood to call to mind the biblical miracles about Jesus feeding crowds with fish.

Regardless, the point of fasting from meat is less about indulging in seafood and more about self-denial. Catholics used to fast from meat on Fridays outside of Lent, but the practice died out. Orthodox Christians keep up this discipline year-round, fasting not only on Fridays but Wednesdays as well.

Vegetables - Cauliflower, Kale, Leeks, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Spinach, Spring Onions, Swede, Wild Nettles

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Blood Oranges, Kiwi Fruit, Lemons, Oranges, Passion Fruit, Pineapple, Rhubarb

Fish – Cockles, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Hake, Langoustine, lemon sole, lobster, mussels, oysters, red mullet, salmon, shrimp, whitebait, winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Remembering Sir Christopher Wren

It was 300 years ago, on 8th March 1723, that English architect Sir Christopher Wren died at the age of 90. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral, he was also a ground-breaking anatomist, astronomer and physicist.

A founder of the Royal Society, Wren served as its president from 1680 to 1682 and was highly regarded by such eminent scientists as Isaac Newton and Blaise Pascal. But it is as an architect that he is best known: beside St Paul's, regarded as his masterpiece and completed in 1710, he directed the rebuilding of 52 churches after the Great Fire of London in 1666 – though he did not work alone, heading a team of creative minds that included Nicholas Hawksmoor.



Born at East Knoyle in Wiltshire, Wren was the only surviving son of Christopher Wren the Elder, who became Dean of Windsor. He was a sickly child but lived a long life, despite his family being affected by the Civil Wars that broke out in 1642. He married twice, but both his wives died very early – one of smallpox and the other of tuberculosis. Although Wren lived 90 years, he was married for only nine of them, but had four children.

Two factors may have contributed to Wren's success as an architect: one was basic – his decision to move into that field because of the dearth of architects in the mid-17th century; the other was more dramatic – the Great Fire of London, which necessitated so much rebuilding in the city and gave him the opportunity to shine.

Robert Hooke, the scientist and architect who was a friend of Wren, said: "Since the time of Archimedes there scarce ever met in one man in so great perfection such a mechanical hand and so philosophical a mind." Sir Christopher Wren PRS FRS was one of the most highly acclaimed English architects in history, as well as an anatomist, astronomer, geometer, and mathematician-physicist

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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

ERIC EYRE

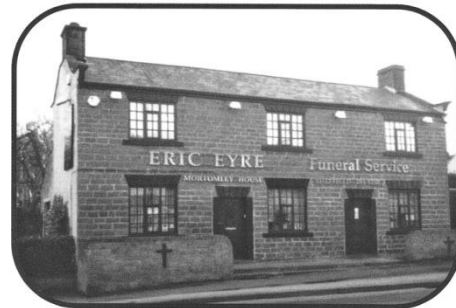
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It is time to eat Rhubarb

The outlandishly coloured vegetable that thinks it's a fruit. Rhubarb makes deliciously comforting puddings but its sharpness works extremely well with meat and oily fish dishes. Forced rhubarb (grown in the dark) has yellowish leaves and usually appears in January. The field-grown variety replaces it around April and is less tender but often more flavourful. Rhubarb is a member of the family Polygonaceae and is related to sorrel. It grows best in cool climates and the effect of forcing was discovered by accident at the Chelsea Physic Garden early in the 19th century. Rhubarb was used as a medicine in ancient China. It was brought to Europe by Marco Polo and has been eaten as a food since the eighteenth century. See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhubarb>

Choose crisp, firm, plump stalks with good colour. Kept in the fridge, fresh rhubarb will stay in reasonable condition for 1-2 weeks. Raw and cooked rhubarb freeze well. Wash and trim both ends of the stalks, and discard the poisonous leaves. Rhubarb, in particular the later field-grown variety, is very tart and requires considerable sweetening. As with other relatively acidic foods it is recommended that it is not cooked using aluminium pots. Rhubarb is a good source of fibre and contains moderate levels of vitamin C and calcium. Studies have linked the fibre from rhubarb in the diet with reduced cholesterol levels.

Classic Rhubarb Crumble – serves 4

Base 500g rhubarb, chopped into chunks the length of your thumb
 100g golden caster sugar
 3 tbsp port (optional)

Crumble 140g self-raising flour
 85g butter, chilled
 50g light brown muscovado sugar
 50g chopped walnuts (optional)

Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
2. Tip 500g thumb-length chunks of rhubarb into a saucepan with 100g golden caster sugar and 3 tbsp port, if using.
3. Cover and simmer on a very low heat for 15 mins, adding more sugar if you want. When soft (but still holding its shape) and sweet enough, pour the rhubarb into a medium baking dish.
4. To make the topping, rub 140g self-raising flour and 85g chilled butter together with your fingers until you have a soft, crumbly topping.
5. Now add 50g light brown muscovado sugar and 50g chopped walnuts if using. Mix together with your hands.
6. Scatter the topping over the rhubarb and bake for 30 mins or until golden brown on top.
7. Serve piping hot with a big jug of thick, sweet, vanilla custard.



Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Clues Down

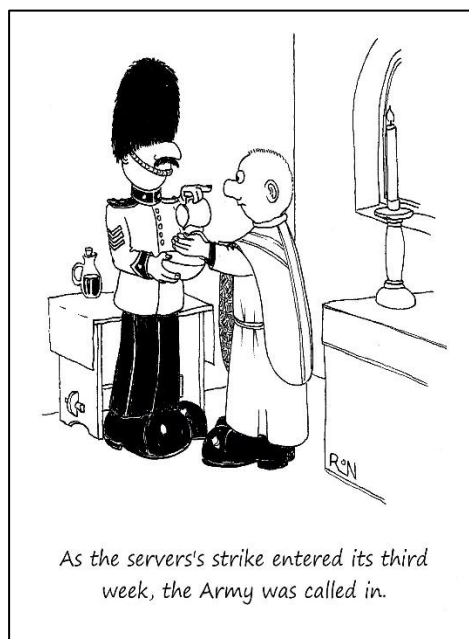
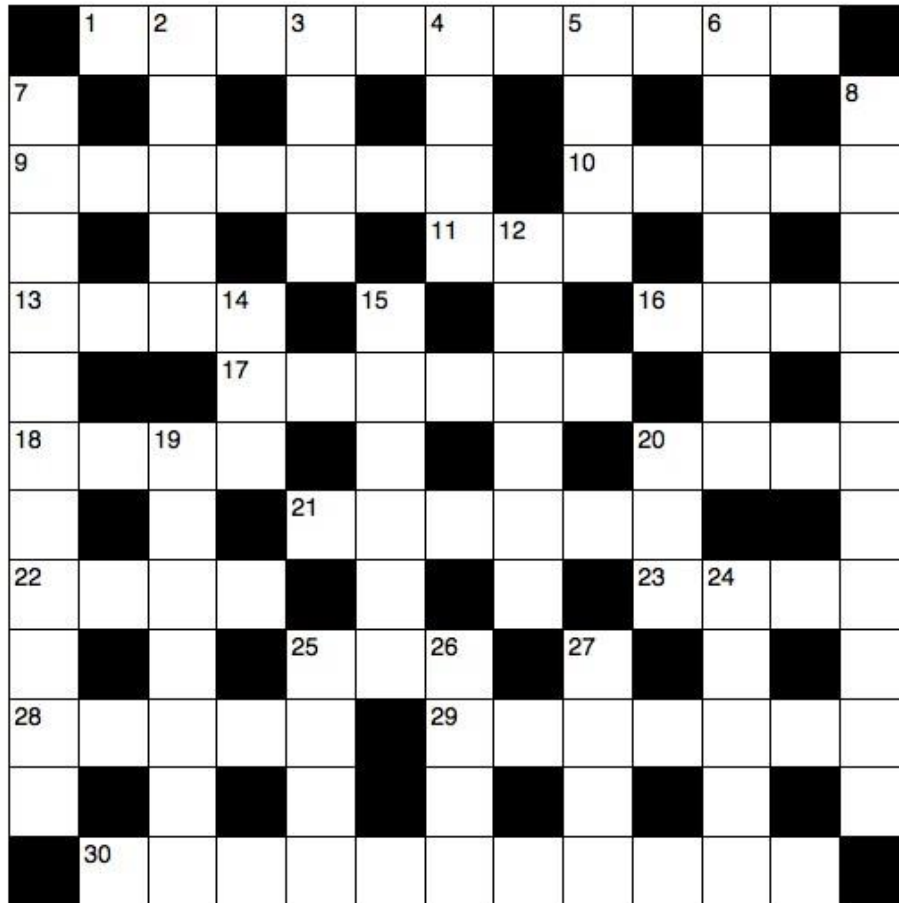
- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)

25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)

26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)

27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Solution is on Page 23



Chapelton & District Probus Club



I have to start with the very sad news that our previous Chairman, Robert Dunn, has died suddenly and his funeral took place on 7th February. Robert was, unusually, in the chair for 2 consecutive years through the COVID pandemic from March 2020 to March 2022. During the period, he gave quiet and considered leadership enabling the club to weather the pandemic and come through in a strong position. Our condolences are offered to his wife Yvonne and family.

In February, we welcomed back BBC Radio Sports Reporter, Peter Slater, who gave us his new presentation on the technology used going around the world reporting and some fascinating insights into a selection of the well-known sports people he has met and interviewed.

The club has now announced its first three visits of the year to the Wortley Forge in March, a special limited numbers visit to Sheffield Forgemasters (sold out) in April and then to Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet in May to which visitors are welcome. We have been successful in 2022 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 March – Annual General Meeting and Quiz
12th April – Nick Johnson “Tales from the Press Box”
10th May – Paul Adey “The Story of Energy”

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

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

Andrew Robinson

Adam and Eve’s true nationality

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."

Prayers and Poems Page

Dear Father in Heaven- *By Daphne Kitching*

In this month, when Lent begins, we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness. The world today can seem like a wilderness. So many difficult, incomprehensible things going on. It is tempting to turn away in horror or denial, tempting to look out for ourselves, tempting to take the easy path, to pay attention to whatever the culture dangles before our eyes.

Lord, please help us. We need your word to guide us. We need your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Help us to give our attention and our worship only to you.
Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who by his death and resurrection, opens the way to you. Help us to renew our trust in him and through him, to walk with you every day.
In his name, Amen.

St David's Day- *By Megan Carter* (Dewi Sant – 5th century)

Remembering a monk of long ago
On 1st March – St David's Day
A preacher who was greatly revered
Who lived his life in a simple way.

He was made the Patron Saint of Wales
Daffodils on that day abound,
Leeks are an option, but flowers preferred,
And Welsh cakes in many a kitchen are found.

"Always be joyful and keep the faith"
A message St David continues to give
"And remember to do the little things"
A profound but simple way to live.

Prayer - *Anon*

God stir the soil,
Run the ploughshare deep,
Cut the furrows round and round,
Overturn the hard, dry ground,
Spare no strength nor toil,
Even though I weep.
In the loose, fresh mangled earth
Sow new seed.
Free of withered vine and weed
Bring fair flowers to birth.

March Hares - *By Nigel Beeton*

The frosty sunlight glistens
From the ice upon the grass;
But they who stop and listen
Know winter, soon, will pass.

The icy grass is rustling!
Beneath the frozen dew
Someone is in there, bustling;
We only wonder – who?

They burst into a clearing
Dispelling winter cares!
A sight to set us cheering!
Two zany, mad, March hares!

They're chasing, leaping, bounding
As round and round they race;
Those winter blues confounding –
Spring stares us in the face!

The cold and dark behind us
We watch those leopines, mad;
Their frolics just remind us –
It's time now to be glad!

Your will

Father, I wait thy daily will;
Thou shalt divide my portion still;
Grant me on earth what seems thee best,
Till death and heaven reveal the rest.

By Isaac Watts

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

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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

Matches every Saturday and some
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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	

