

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine November 2023

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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First Words

I cannot believe that it is already November. In Church we focus our prayer and worship on the hope of God's kingdom. We think of those we love who have died, we pray for the bereaved; we celebrate Remembrance Sunday. And all around us society is rushing ahead to Christmas! Don't miss out on this season, or Advent that follows they are important and, if properly kept will help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus at the end of December.

Please note that from now until the end of March, **Sunday Evening** worship will be at **4pm**.

The month begins for us on **Sunday 5th November**. At **10am** we will celebrate the feats of **All Saints**, and in the evening, at **4pm** we will be welcoming those who have been bereaved in the past year for our **All-Souls Memorial Service**.

On **Monday 6th November** our **PCC** meet in Church at **7.30pm**.

On **Wednesday 8th November** at **3pm** we meet in Church to plan **services and hymns** for January, February and March.

On **Saturday 11th November 9am** we have our monthly **Prayer Breakfast**. This is followed at **11am** by something new - a monthly **Bereavement Cafe**.

Sunday 12th November is Remembrance Sunday - we will have our usual service at 10am and will be joined by the local uniformed organisations. The **Act of Remembrance** will be at **11am** at the war memorial in the Churchyard.

This is followed at **12 noon** by **Baptisms**.

On **Monday 13th November** we have **Baptism Preparation in Church**.

Tuesday 14th November 7.30pm, Bell-Ringers' AGM.

On **Sunday 19th November, 3pm** at **St Mark's Grenoside** there is a **Book of Common Prayer Communion**.

On **Monday 20th November** at **1.10pm** & again on **Thurs 23rd November** at **2.30pm** there are **assemblies** in Ecclesfield Primary School.

On **Monday 28th November** at 5pm we have a **wedding rehearsal** in Church, and on **Thursday 30th November** there is a **wedding** in church at **1pm**.

Saturday 2nd December 10am to 2pm Christmas Fayre in Church

Sunday 3rd December, Advent Sunday, 10am Eucharist.

4pm Advent Carols led by the Steel City Choristers.

A busy month with lots of opportunities to invite friends and neighbours along. Do please put these dates on your calendar.

God bless,
Tim

Front Cover – Poppy Field under blue sky – from the web - origin unknown

Back Cover – Christmas Fayre Poster and EPPiC Poster – Chapelton Silver Prize Band

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Mothers' Union - October

We were pleased to welcome Claire back to tell us more about the work Pause are doing with the young women who have had their children removed from their care. She told us how hard it can be getting their confidence and helping them look at the reasons this may have happened. It was sad to learn that many of them had not had a settled and happy childhood and therefore had no pattern to follow. Many activities were tried with them which hopefully built up their confidence and helped them to understand why they were in the situation they found themselves. We were impressed how hard it could be with some of the women but they do have many successes and women appreciated being listened to and having time to sort things out.

Nine people from our branch went to York for the Annual Meeting which was interesting and informative. The Worldwide President gave a whistlestop tour of the countries of the world she had been visiting. It was good to hear how the money we have raised is being used and the success of many projects started that are being sustained, making the lives of many women and children so much happier. Children are able to go to school and the money raised from the mothers provides for their schooling and food for the family.

We watched an interesting situation with some vicars played out and listened to comments by an MU Chaplain on how we might work with them and inform them about MU. The day finished with a service in York Minster with the Archbishop telling us what a fine organisation we have and how so many benefit from the work done by members. Our next meeting is 1st November 1.30pm

NP

16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence to Women and Girls

M.U. are once again supporting the international campaign of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence against women and girls. The campaign begins on the 25th November, The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and ends on the 10th of December Human Rights Day.

On the 25th of November 1960 three sisters Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabel were clubbed to death and their bodies dumped at the bottom of a cliff by the secret police of Rafael Trujillo. The sisters were political activists who opposed the cruelty and systematic violence of the brutal dictatorship of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Minerva had also rejected Trujillo's sexual advances towards her. The sisters known as The Butterflies became symbols of the feminist resistance and in 1999 the United Nations designated November 25th as international day for the Elimination of violence towards women and girls.

Gender based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It continues at an alarming scale in every country around the world. It can be accepted as a cultural norm or hidden behind closed doors. It can take many forms physical and mental which have a long-lasting negative impact on women and girl's lives. More than 1 in 3 women experience gender-based violence during their lifetime. More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. Less than 40% of women who experience violence seek help of any sort. Gender violence is NEVER, EVER, acceptable. Throughout this campaign Mother's Union joins with over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries to raise awareness, to challenge attitudes, to end gender violence.

ML

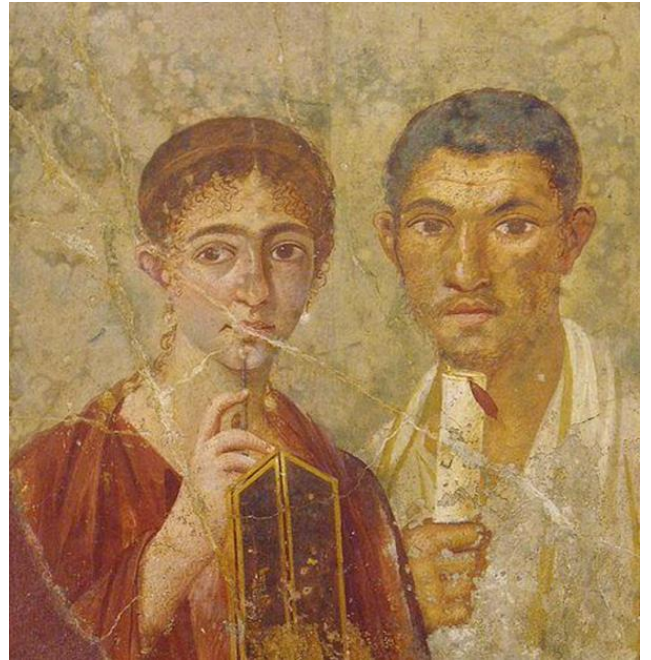
Help is available, the freephone, 24-hour National Helpline: 0808 200 0247
There will be a vigil at Sheffield Cathedral on November 25th at 12.30 pm

God in The Arts

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of art. You can see more images described by googling 'wall paintings of Pompeii'. Image credit: Naples National Archaeological Museum.

'He gave us eyes to see them': Wall painting of Pompeii

Each month we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2nd century theologian, went further and wrote that 'the glory of God is a living person.' He was echoing Psalm 8: 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.' Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.



The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1st century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don't know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo's intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. 'Where can we place our hope?' we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.

The Pompeians - The people of Pompeii were from both rich and poor Roman families, but the two main cities of the region Pompeii and Herculaneum were wealthy. Many citizens lived in lavish villas and palaces and some wealthy out-of-towners even had second homes there. Herculaneum served as a seaside holiday resort for other wealthy Romans. Items found on the sites revealed a love of entertainment, food and other pleasures.

The discoveries of Pompeii and Herculaneum proved one thing, their inhabitants loved art and colour. Amongst the ruins, particularly in the better-preserved town of Herculaneum, were found mosaics, frescoes, and wooden panels that would have decorated houses. Further investigation of many of the items revealed that they would have been very colourful. Archaeologists uncovering these items detected pigments left on wooden panels, marble statues, and stone carvings. Using advanced technology, scientists have been able to identify these colours and create digital images of what the items would have looked like in their prime. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii>

The Story Behind the Hymn: O God our Help in Ages Past

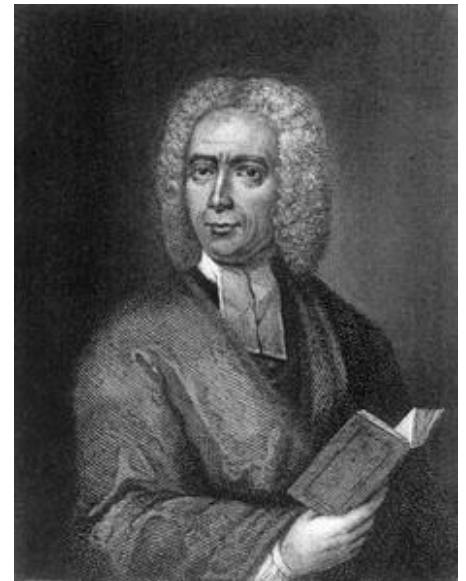
- 1 O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home.
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
be Thou our Guard while life shall last, and our eternal Home!

Source: Psalms & Hymns to the Living God

O God our Help in Ages Past is considered one of the grandest hymns in the English hymnody. It is sung at the annual Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph in London, and it was also sung at the funeral of former prime minister Winston Churchill in St Paul's Cathedral.

The hymn was written by Isaac Watts in 1719, as a paraphrase of Psalm 90. It is a psalm of Moses, and carries a strong message of hope and faith in God's loving care.

Isaac Watts was born in Southampton in 1674, the eldest of nine children. His father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was in prison for his non-conformist beliefs at the time of Isaac's birth.



Watts had an outstanding aptitude for language. By the time he was 13 he had learned Latin, Greek, French, and Hebrew. He had also begun to write in verse, even speaking in rhyme in ordinary conversation – much to the irritation of some of his family!

By the time Isaac was 18, he had a particular bugbear – the deplorable state of congregational singing. It was mostly metrical psalms, which were heavy going and ponderous. But many non-conformists thought that if congregations sang anything other than the actual words of Scripture, it would be an insult to God.

Isaac was complaining about this one Sunday when his father suddenly challenged him: ‘Why don't you give us something better to sing, then?’

Isaac accepted the challenge. The next Sunday he produced his first hymn, and the congregation loved it. Isaac then wrote new hymn texts for his church - every Sunday for the next two years. By

1719, Watts had published a hymnal: *The Psalms of David in the Language of the New Testament*. He had paraphrased nearly the entire Psalter.

In all, Watts wrote more than 600 hymns. Other favourites include: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*, and the famous Christmas carol *Joy to the World*.

At the time, some people felt Watts's hymns were "too worldly" as they were not based solely on the Psalms. Yet Watts argued that the Christian church should sing of Christ. He explained his approach this way:

"Where the Psalmist describes religion by the fear of God, I have often joined faith and love to it. Where he speaks of the pardon of sin through the mercies of God, I rather choose to mention the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Where He promises abundance of wealth, honour, and long life, I have changed some of these typical blessings for grace, glory and life eternal, which are brought to light by the gospel, and promised in the New Testament."

Watts died in 1748, having been a much-loved hymn-writer, scholar, pastor and preacher.

For your diary

Bereavement Café - St Mary's on the second Saturday of every month, beginning on Saturday 11th November 11am. When we lose someone we love it can turn our world upside down. Talking can help.

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 10am in Church -The Act of Remembrance will be held at 11am at the War Memorial in the Churchyard. All are welcome as we remember those who have died in conflicts and as we pray for peace in our world.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! Sunday 3rd December 4pm.
The Steel City Choristers will lead Advent Carols at St Mary's.

St Mary's Christmas Fayre - Saturday 2nd December 10am to 2pm
Stalls including cake stall, raffle and Tombola. Tours of Church during the day and the Belltower will be open. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and there will be carols sung and handbells rung! All Welcome

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St James the Least of All

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

On using Glebe land for allotments

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal in your parish into allotments – although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden of Eden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we similarly decided to let part of our Glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity of re-living his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession, preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair, and a flask of coffee. He then settles down for a comfortable hour while occasionally supervising the work, once reports on the local hunt have been read.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes, and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches. Neighbouring plot-holders look forward to the agricultural equivalent of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

I am sure you will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work. Just make sure you get a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Glebe Land - Church of England - Glebe associated with the Church of England ceased to belong to individual incumbents as from 1 April 1978, by virtue of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976. It became vested on that date, "without any conveyance or other assurance", in the Diocesan Board of Finance of the diocese to which the benefice owning the glebe belonged, even if the glebe was in another diocese. But see 'Parsonages & Glebe Diocesan Manual 2012' for current legislation.

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Thought for the Month

In Church, during November we think about the hope of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have services for all Saints and Remembrance Sunday. We keep All Souls and at the end of the month we celebrate Christ the King.

This hope of the Kingdom means that we also think about loss and bereavement. Things that as a society we do not always handle well! It is for this reason that I wanted to start our monthly Bereavement Cafe during November.

Bereavement Cafe is simply somewhere where those who have lost someone that they love can come and meet with others who have also lost someone. It might have been in recent months or years, or it may be many years ago. Grief doesn't have a sell-by date - I know this because my Dad died in 1981 when I was 15 years old. Even though it is much easier after over 40 years, I still miss him.

People who are making the lonely journey of grief and loss often feel that family and friends won't want to hear the story of the loss again, so we put on a brave face and keep our feelings, sometimes very strong feelings, to ourselves.

Bereavement Cafe is a place where you can tell the stories again, where you can talk about your grief and pain and anger at your loss. It is also a place where you will hear others' stories. All in complete confidence.

When we lose someone we love our world is turned upside down, we lose our bearings, we have to build a completely new life. Keeping our pain and confusion to ourselves is not always healthy. Talking helps. Listening to others helps.

Bereavement Cafe will be at St Mary's on the Second Saturday every month from 11am. All are welcome.

Please pray for those who will come along. Perhaps if you have been bereaved you would like to come along or maybe you know someone who you could invite. For more information have a word with me.

God bless,
Tim.

Happy Birthday, King Charles!

King Charles was born 75 years ago this month, on 14th November 1948, at Buckingham Palace in London. He was the longest-serving monarch-in-waiting in British history and did not ascend the throne until he was 73, following the death of his mother in September 2022. Charles was crowned in the first coronation in seven decades, on 6th May 2023. His current title is King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

But King Charles has also become head of the Commonwealth, an association of 56 independent countries and 2.5 billion people. For 14 of these countries, as well as the UK, the King is head of state. These countries are known as the Commonwealth realms. They are Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

Richard Hooker – priest, apologist, teacher

Day 3rd November:

Richard Hooker lived at a critical time for the Church of England. He became one of the most important English theologians of the 16th century.

He provided the Church of England with a theological method which combined the claims of revelation, reason, and tradition. Traditionally, he has been credited as the originator of the Anglican via media – the middle way between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Hooker was born near Exeter around 1554, educated at Corpus Christi College Oxford, and was then made fellow there in 1577, and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. In 1581 he was ordained, and later appointed as Rector of Drayton Beauchamp.

In 1585 Hooker was appointed Master of the Temple Church in London, but returned to rural ministry six years later, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire, and then at Bishopsbourne in Kent, where he died in 1600.



The 1580s and 1590s were a time of bitter theological disputes between the Church of England, after the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement of the C of E, and the growing Puritan party within the Church.

Hooker was implacably against Puritanism, and set about refuting it, and defending the Church of England in his magisterial eight-volume book *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

The book has been called "probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English." In it Hooker set out to demonstrate the superiority of episcopacy in the C of E, as opposed to bringing in the presbyterian system that the Puritans wanted.

Anglicanism, he said, was rooted in both Scripture and tradition, as suited a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as human reason is a gift from God, he argued that this, too, was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

So, Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for Anglicanism. His contribution to Anglican thought was so huge that down the centuries he has won the backing of all wings of the Church: the evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, and central churchmen.

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

We thought you might find it helpful to know what the Sundays of each month are called

5th November
12th November
19th November
26th November
3rd December

Third Sunday before Advent
Second Sunday before Advent
Christ the King – Sunday next before Advent
The First Sunday of Advent
The Second Sunday of Advent



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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 1st October Millie Mae Utley; Ava-May Musleh

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

Marriages

Saturday 14th October Adam Askwith & Keeley O Grady

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

Funerals

Monday 2nd October Emmanuel Nyabako

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

Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues to his year-long series on the Spiritual Disciplines.

'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.' (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

Give consistently: Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

Give spontaneously: God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

Give sacrificially: Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (Luke 6:38).

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.

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? (Job 38:4–7, 14, 16)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to You...? Why have You made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

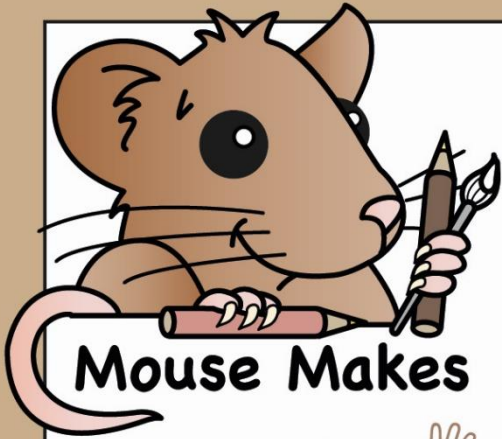
Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in *New Daylight* (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

<https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/>

<https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/about/people/professor-bob-white-frs/>

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/search?type=product&q=New+Daylight>



Mouse Makes

"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by
_____ and _____

with thanksgiving, present your
_____ to God."

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

"The _____

is _____

to all who _____

on him in _____."

Psalm 145:18

"For where two or three _____

in my name, there
I am with them."

Matthew 18:20

SAY SORRY

PRAY FOR OTHERS

PRAY FOR YOURSELF

THANK GOD

FOR MY FAMILY

PRAY FOR FRIENDS


PRAY FOR THE NEEDY

PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAISE GOD

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

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NIV

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fill in the blanks then
find them in the word search

Find these words too:
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 MEDITATE
 HEAR • LISTEN
 BLESS • PRAISE
 FORGIVE • NAME
 CRY OUT • AMEN

" _____
 always, _____
 continually, _____

 in all circumstances."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Therefore,

 your sins to one another and
 _____ for one another,
 that you may be healed."
James 5:16

" _____
 yourselves
 to prayer, being
 watchful and
 thankful."
Colossians 4:2



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Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Someone out there must be very good at Scrabble!

Presbyterian – Best in prayer

Astronomer – Moon starrer

Desperation – A rope ends it

The eyes – They see

The Morse Code – Here come dots

Dormitory – Dirty room

Slot machines – Cash lost in me

Animosity – Is no amity

Election results – Lies; let's recount

Snooze alarms – Alas! No more Z's

A decimal point – I'm a dot in place

The earthquakes – That queer shake

As for those signs found outside churches:

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

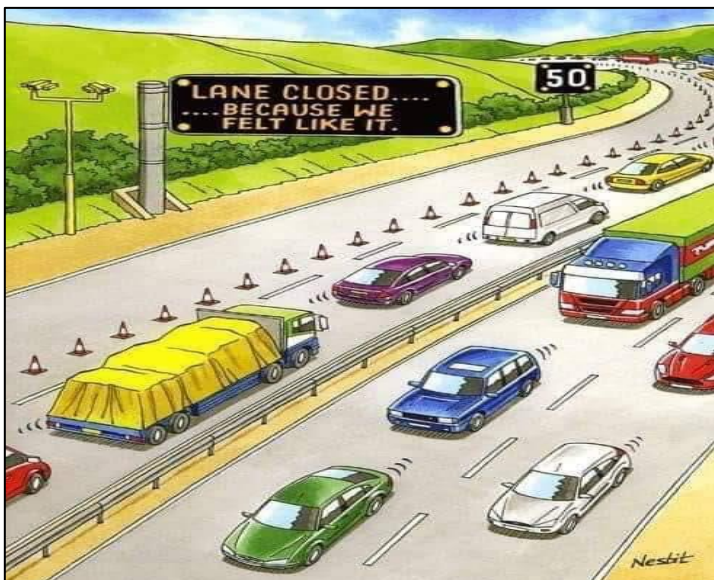
“It was only a sunny smile,
and little it cost in the
giving,
but like morning light
it scattered the night
and made the day worth
living.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

So much to do.



No desire to do it



Prayer for the Month

***Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

(The Collect for Christ the King).

On the last Sunday in the Church Calendar we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. It draws together all of the themes in the past year: the longing of God's people for a righteous and compassionate king in Advent; the birth of the Messiah king in the stable at Bethlehem, His seeking refuge in Egypt with His parents as they fled the murderous plans of King Herod. Then in Passiontide we remember that Jesus is the king who is crowned with thorns enthroned on a Roman Cross.

A very different sort of king who washes feet, heals the sick, and brings hope to those with no hope.

At Easter we remember that He rose triumphant from death and at Ascension that He was enthroned in the heavens. At Pentecost King Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit on His Church as He sends them to announce to all peoples and nations the Good News of a new and eternal king, a servant king.

As the Church of Christ in 2023 we live between the enthronement of King Jesus and His return to heal and redeem His creation. We live our lives as people who belong to this servant king in a world that has largely forgotten Him. We are called by our king to live faithfully: to worship and to point to His presence in the world and in the lives of His people, whether they acknowledge Him or not. We are called to see His image in the face of our neighbour and to serve Him in serving others.

Jesus is a very different sort of king; His kingdom is without boundaries or barriers into which all people are invited and welcomed. He comes to our world, He comes to us as our true king and He invites us to follow Him and His way. He invites us to live our lives as children of the Father and He invites us to meet Him in every other, in every neighbour.

Christ is a king who does not coerce or compel us to follow Him. He invites us and He awaits our response. He is a humble king.

As we gather in Church on the feast of Christ the King, it is an opportunity for each of us to acclaim Him as 'my king' and to commit to following Him in the coming year.

God bless you,
Tim

Emergency appeal for Libya flood victims

The development charity, Christian Aid, has launched an emergency appeal to help people impacted by the devastating flooding that struck Libya in recent days. More than 11,000 people have died and at least 10,000 are missing after a catastrophic storm burst two dams and flooded the eastern port city of Derna. Christian Aid is working with Dan Church Aid (DCA), their Act Alliance partner, to provide medical support, establish shelters, and distribute basic items such as blankets and bedding, sanitation and hygiene items.

Michael Mosselmans, Christian Aid's Head of Humanitarian Division, said: "The scenes in Libya are heart-breaking. With critical infrastructure, including hospitals and homes, washed away by the flooding we are seeing people without the basics such as access to clean water and proper sanitation to prevent the risk of diseases."

"Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster." If you can help, please visit: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Ukraine needs the support of 'Christian solidarity'

The Primate of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, Major Archbishop Svetoslav Shevchuk, has said that: "Ukraine will not be able to withstand this war without broad international help. Universal Catholic and Christian solidarity is a necessary condition for the stability and survival of our Church and people – a condition for Ukraine's victory in a war of good against evil."



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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 2023 cricket season

by the Ven John Barton

The 2023 cricket season ended on a jarring note. A widespread review of the game in England found it suffered from racism, sexism, elitism and class-based discrimination.

Older cricket fans will wince. They recall the days when each county side was divided into amateurs and professionals, called Gentlemen and Players. They had separate changing rooms. Gentlemen came from wealthy families, so didn't need the wages paid to the others. You could distinguish them on cricket scorecards, where Gentlemen's names were printed with their initials in front of their surnames, whereas Players' names were the other way round. The team captain was always an amateur.

For centuries, women have played cricket, using a smaller ball, but it wasn't until 1976 that they were allowed to play at Lords, where schoolboys from Eton and Harrow had played for years. Twenty-five years later, Ebony Rainford-Brent became the first black woman to play for her country, and was subject to racist abuse. "As soon as I walked into the world of cricket the comments started", she said.

In the early days, a few Indian cricketers who were members of noble families, played for English counties and even for the national team. But by and large the game in England was played by white people. Class distinction was accepted without question. In church, they were still singing,

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate;
God made them, high or lowly
And ordered their estate.

Although the Bible acknowledges distinctions between rich and poor, employers and workers, kings and their subjects, it gives priority to the poor and powerless, and places grave responsibility on those who are wealthy and wield power. No reference is made to their skin colour. Adam and Eve are presented as non-ethnic and non-national because they represent all people of all ethnicities.

One outstanding cricketer, who lived by these biblical themes, was David Sheppard. He captained England, both before and after he was ordained in the Church of England. He chose to minister only in the most downtrodden areas, wrote *Bias to the Poor* as part of his campaign for social justice and refused to play against South Africa when their team was controlled by apartheid. All sports need players of principle like him.

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The Gardening Year – November

Autumn ends when plants begin the period of winter dormancy. Most plants cease to grow when the daily mean temperature falls below 6-degree Centigrade (43 degrees F). the general weather brought by depressions in November is much the same as in October , but the shorter days and the weaker sun results in lower temperatures. In spite of cold raw days this is a good month for planting shrubs and herbaceous plants, and for clearing up before winter. Here is a check list for some money saving ideas. Do not throw away used compost use it for different vegetables or flowers. If you are going to use old compost it's a good idea to put a small handful of Fish, Blood and Bone fertiliser in each pot, mix it well with the compost before planting your seeds or plants.

Compost - is there room on your gardening plot for a small compost heap or wormery ?, this is a great way to save money on buying compost. Bulk buying, purchasing compost in bulk from an online supplier or local garden centre can save you money.

Recycling - pots, start saving all yogurt pots, margarine containers or plastic water bottles for sowing seeds. Reusing, take a look in your garage or shed and see what you could use as a suitable container for your garden.

Seeds - Saving seeds, some plants are easy to gather seeds from, such as runner beans .why not keep some seeds for planting next year? Seed swap, swap seeds with your neighbours or your friends.

Second-hand bargains, start asking friends, family and colleagues to see if they are clearing out the shed or garage, you might find they have some tools to give you . Charity shops, visit charity shops, car boot sales, and yard sales for old tools and other gardening and preserving equipment.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – November

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

Fruit - Apples, Clementines Cranberries Passion Fruit Pears, Pomegranate Quince, Satsumas

Herbs & Nuts - Almonds Brazil Nuts Chestnuts, Cob Nuts, Hazelnuts Rosemary, Sage, Walnuts,

Meat - Beef, Duck, Goose, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Lamb, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Clams, Cod, Coley, Crab, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Plaice, Pollack, Red Mullet, Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Skate, Squid, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Remembering C S Lewis

The creator of the Chronicles of Narnia

It was 60 years ago this month, on 22nd November, that the famous writer C S Lewis died. This Irish-born British academic, novelist and literary critic is best known for his novels on *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and his books on Christian apologetics.

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast November 1898. He arrived in Oxford in 1917 as a student and stayed on as a fellow and tutor at Magdalen College for 29 years. In 1954 he moved to Cambridge University's Magdalene College, until his death in 1963.

C S Lewis's books include *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *the Space Trilogy*, *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *the Problem of Pain*.



Lewis was a close friend of JRR Tolkien, who also taught at Oxford. They were both active in the informal Oxford literary group known as The Inklings. Lewis had been baptised in the Church of Ireland, but then had abandoned his faith as a young man. He was converted to Christianity and became an Anglican at the age of 32, influenced by Tolkien and others. Lewis' faith had a profound effect on his work and writings, and his wartime radio broadcasts on Christianity made him famous.

In all, Lewis wrote more than 30 books, which have sold millions of copies. His *Chronicles of Narnia* was televised and filmed, and his Christian apologetical writings are still widely used today.

In 1956 Lewis married American writer, Joy Davidman, who died of cancer four years later, aged only 45. Lewis died on 22nd November 1963 from kidney failure. In 2013, on the 50th anniversary of his death, Lewis was honoured with a memorial in Poets' Corner, in Westminster Abbey.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C. S. Lewis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis)

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

T	H	A	N	K	S		B	A	N	N	E	R
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ERIC EYRE

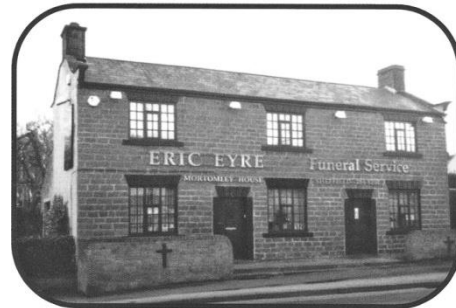
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It is time to eat Beetroot

Many people are averse to beetroot having only experienced crinkle-cut slices steeped in overpowering vinegar. This is a shame because fresh beetroot has much to commend it in terms of flavour (sweet, slightly earthy), texture (smooth and velvety) and colour (dark red/purple, or an appealingly lurid pink when combined with cream or yoghurt). These attributes make it a key ingredient in many fabulous salads. And if you haven't tried fresh beetroot juice you may be pleasantly surprised at how subtle it is, particularly when offset with a sharper ingredient such as orange or apple.

Beetroot evolved from wild sea beet which is a native of coastlines from India to Britain. Two thousand years ago, prior to being modified by cultivation techniques, beetroot had a carrot-shaped root and only the leaves were eaten (the small root was used for medicinal purposes by ancient Greeks and Romans). The familiar rounded root variety was developed around the sixteenth century and gained widespread popularity in Europe a couple of hundred years later. Today beetroot is common throughout much of Europe, and is used extensively in Scandinavian, Eastern European and Russian cuisine. The beetroot plant, *Beta vulgaris*, has deep tap roots and can grow in a variety of soil conditions. Other members of the genus include chard, sugar beet, spinach and samphire. The red variety is dominant but golden and white beetroot is grown on a smaller scale.

Beetroot should be firm with a smooth, undamaged surface. Smaller roots are more tender - avoid any larger than about 6cm in diameter as they may have tough, woody cores. If you want to use the leaves they should be crisp, fresh looking and not too long or thick (if you don't, it doesn't matter too much if they're a bit limp as they deteriorate much more quickly than the root). Cut off the leaves and store in an unsealed plastic bag in the fridge. The leaves should be used within a day or two but the root will keep for a couple of weeks. Beetroot is high in beta carotene and folic acid. Excellent for those wanting to stay healthy as eating it regularly helps cleanse the liver and can assist in lowering incidences of heart disease.

To preserve the beetroot's colour and nutrients, rinse and brush clean but do not remove the skin or root until after cooking. Cook until a skewer easily penetrates to the core (anything from 30 minutes to 2 hours boiling or 1½ to 2½ hours baking at 180°C). You may want to wear rubber gloves when cutting and handling beetroot as the pigmentation leaves a pretty stubborn stain. Tender baby roots can be grated raw in salads. Mature beetroot can be boiled (better for smaller, younger beetroot) or wrapped in foil and baked (better for larger, older roots). The leaves can be cooked like spinach - steam uncovered in a pan with a small amount of boiling water (around 1cm depth).

Extensive information on beetroot, and some other interesting stuff, can be found on this website: www.stephennottingham.co.uk

Recipes online

<https://www.hairybikers.com/recipes/view/borscht>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/creamy-beetroot-risotto>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cant-believe-its-vegan-burger>



Crossword Puzzle

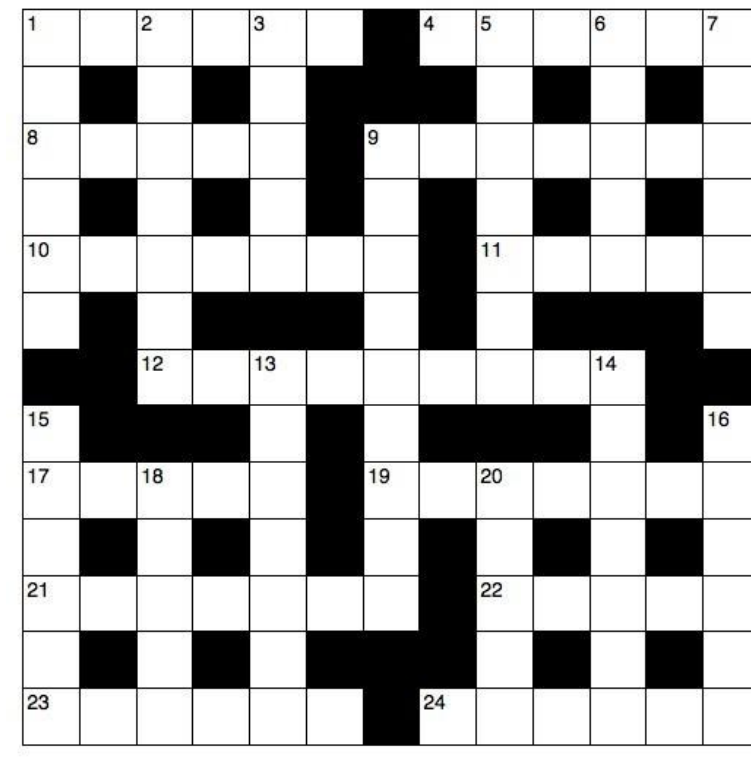
Clues Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Solution is on Page 23



Local Christmas Carol Singing 2023

The Local Christmas Carols in Ecclesfield and local villages have been going for over 200 years and even in my own lifetime, they were known by a majority of families in Ecclesfield. We used to sing them around the piano at home with my Mother Dorothy at the keyboard. It was common for the carols to be sung in many pubs, notably the Black Bull in Ecclesfield where they have been a tradition since the 1930s. In Ecclesfield, the carols have been sung immediately following Remembrance Sunday – technically the sings have been a “practice” for the main sing on Christmas Day morning but the Christmas Day sings died out about 30 years ago. Times have changed, and the local carols have survived by becoming more like a folk singing tradition. But for me, Christmas really isn’t Christmas without them.



COVID and the cost-of-living crisis have given the singing in pubs a bigger challenge than many major wars. With the closure of the village pubs The Black Bull and now The Stocks (previously The Old Tankard), the village is left with just 2 pubs when in the 1930s, it had more than a dozen.

However, we are pleased to say that the Ecclesfield tradition will continue in **The Greyhound on High St.** commencing on **Thursday 16th November at 8.30pm** and then every Thursday up to **21st December at 8.00pm.**

There will also be a special singing on **Monday 18th December at 7.00pm** around the **Christmas tree in Ecclesfield Churchyard, moving into the church at 7.45 pm.**

You can find more information on the website <http://www.localcarols.org.uk/>

Andrew Robinson

Chapelton & District Probus Club



In October we welcomed back John Hope with a talk on “Don’t be Alarmed” which featured the development of alarms and clocks over the centuries. The talk was informative if somewhat short, he did however bring a good selection of alarm clocks for us to view. After the meeting , lunch was enjoyed at Wortley Hall.

We are now working on the 2024 programme of visits with Highgrove House in May with an overnight stay in a hotel near Cheltenham as the highlight. This trip is already fully booked but there may be a chance if you put your name on the “waiting list”. Other visits in 2024 will be published when the arrangements are fixed.

This month we welcome Mike Higginbottom who will give a presentation on some of Sheffield’s lost buildings which have been destroyed and demolished under the title “Demolished Sheffield” and in December, we welcome back Paul Adey who will continue his history of the Motor Industry, this time covering cars from Germany and Eastern Europe. The lunch at Wortley Hall in December will be our Christmas celebration.

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

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

8th November – Mike Higginbottom – “Demolished Sheffield”

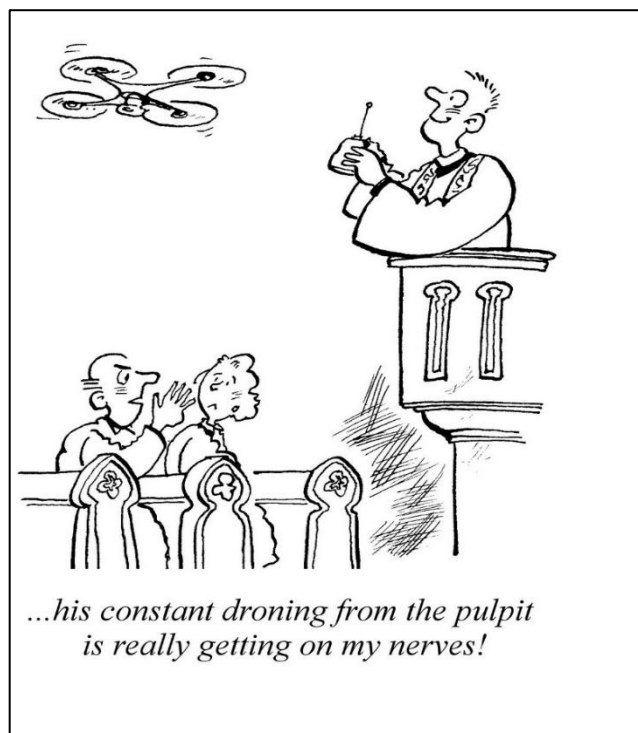
13th December – Paul Adey – “European Motor Industry History Part 2”

10th January 2024 - David Templeman – “Ancient Suburbs Of Sheffield”

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

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

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

A Prayer for November- *By Daphne Kitching*

Father God, November is not many people's favourite month, unless there is a birthday or a delight in bonfires. Short days, sometimes dismal weather can lower our mood. The days of springtime optimism and summer sunshine seem a long way away, whether we look back or forward.

Help us Lord, whatever the month, whatever our circumstances, whatever our mood, to know the reality of Your presence and peace; to treasure each new day and know it is transformed by You into the most precious and beautiful gift. Help us not to waste a single one of them, Lord. Thank You so much for November days.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Spiders - *By Nigel Beeton*

On a chill November morning
A spider's web, bedewed
With the moisture of the dawning
Will cheer our wint'ry mood.

'Tis one of nature's wonders
'Tis lovely to behold
Till a moth, unwary, blunders
Into its sticky fold.

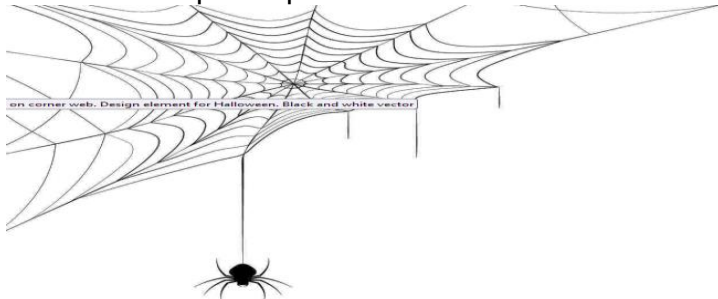
The spider's role is savage
Its killing bite is sure.
Sweet nature then will ravage
'Tis red in tooth and claw.

Such goings-on we pardon,
We do not moan or grouse
If kept within the garden –
But not inside the house!

For webs across the doorway
Or underneath the bed
Are pretty much a sure way
To get me seeing red!

No house stays clean and tidy
When spiders are about,
Their webby messes spidery –
You cannot help but shout!

I wish, to our eight-legged friends
I could request, "Oh, please,
"Just go outside, don't be a pest!"
But I don't speak spider-ese.



Christ the King - *By Nigel Beeton*

Christ is the King of all Creation
He is the King of all the earth;
Christ is the King of every nation
Lord of life, and death, and birth
On God's right hand our King is seated
Receiving praises for His worth!

He came from God to dwell with sinners
Sinners, including you and I
We know, with Him, we'll be the winners
Of life with Christ the King on High!
With all the angels we will praise Him
Who died and rose in victory!

Christ the King will come in glory
With trumpet blast – the glorious one!
All people then will know His story
All people bow before the Son!
No more death and no more sorrow
His Kingdom here on earth shall come!

Crown Him our King – His vict'ry praising
God of all gods, and King of kings
Sing of His grace and love amazing
He is the King above all things!
Through all Heav'n and earth all voices
Our song of triumph ever rings!

Remembrance – *ctbi.org.uk*

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. 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 - Joanna Steel
0797 263 7908
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:
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		246 7159 246 2852
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	

St Mary's Ecclesfield Christmas

Fayre

Saturday 2nd December
10am to 2pm

Free Admission

There will be a range of Stalls
Including Cake & Bottle Stalls
Raffle - Carols - Handbell Ringers
Bell Tower open for visits

Refreshments available



**ECCLESFIELD PRIORY
PLAYERS PRESENT**



CHAPPELLTOWN

SILVER PRIZE BAND



TRADITIONAL & LOCAL CAROLS
plus FESTIVE MUSIC

Tuesday 12th December 2023

Curtain at 7.30pm
All Tickets £10.00 (Includes Glass of Sherry & Mince Pie)

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Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9TP**

tickets@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

www.ticketsource.co.uk (Search for EPPIC Theatre)

Tel: (0114) 2402624



Ecclesfield Priory Players Productions



www.ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

email: info@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

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