

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine April 2024

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

I have been looking forward to April 2024 for a very long time - I have applied for 3 months' study leave and this begins on Friday 12th April. Sam, our Curate will be writing the magazine material for the next few months as well as getting a little experience of being 'in charge.' Please give him your support and help in these 3 months.

Please note that as we have now entered British Summer Time (tell that to the weather!) the Evening Service on Sundays will return to its usual time of 6.30pm.

On **Sunday 7th April at 12noon** we hold our **Annual Meeting** of the Church at which we elect wardens, PCC and Deanery Synod representatives. I shall be at St Mark's at 10am on that morning for their Annual Meeting.

On **Monday 8th April** at 1pm there is a **wedding** in Church.
At **5.30pm** on the same day there will be a '**peal attempt**' in the belltower.

On **Saturday 13th April** there will be **Prayer Breakfast at 9am** and **Bereavement Cafe at 10.30am**.

On **Sunday 14th April at 10am** we have our monthly **Prayer & Praise** Service. The **Eucharist** will be celebrated at **6.30pm**.

On **Saturday 20th April at 10.30am** a local Historical association will be visiting the Church for a tour.

On **Saturday 4th May at 12.30** there is a **wedding** in Church.

God bless,

Tim

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 3rd March

Ayce Terrence Robinson

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

Funerals

Tuesday 26th March

Christine Smith

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

Front Cover – **Khristós anésti! – Alethós anésti!**

Back Cover – **Architectural Sketch of St Marys** © Alan T Adams

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An update on the Childrens Society 2023

Last year we made £1,470.00p in total a great achievement by everyone, the Sponsored Walk made £350.00p' on its own.

The Christingles made £259.00p from the service and the money candles, which are still coming in. It was wonderful to see so many families at the service in December, including members of the Public who ended a special visit round the Village at the Christingle Service.



If you have your Box emptied at this time of the year, can you let me know or bring it to Church.

We have a new Children Society Organiser for Sheffield, Jane Foster who lives at Holmesfield, she has already been to Church, Sheffield now comes under East Midlands, after being with Leeds and the North for a long time.

Last year the Children's Society helped 64,399 children, this is an amazing achievement.

I am continuing with both the box holders and the sponsored walk this year.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Children's Society in the past.

Much love to you all Pat Blackburn



We have a beautiful range of gifts, cards and home items - unusual, different and unique in many ways!

All of our products are chosen to include all budgets from bath bombs to quality clocks by Thomas Kent and wall art by a range of artists, including a range of products by award winning artist Lucy Pittaway.

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God in The Arts - Music

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Allegri’s Miserere

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri’s Miserere. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare’s play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the Miserere was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men’s voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The Miserere, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri’s setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God’s grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray ‘Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.’

<https://youtu.be/cLtm0DqNPHM>

Mother's Union Meeting – 6th March 2024

Unfortunately, the representative from EMMAUS sent his apologies as he was unable to attend our meeting for health reasons.

Jeni Fryer agreed to stand in, in his absence and two readings were given. Liz read "Love in Action", and Jo read "Compassion"

Jeni then did her talk on Lent - **40 days and 40 nights.**

How we live our lives and the meaning of Lent. Temptation, Fasting, Doing something - instead of giving things up and forgiveness – this being a big part of Lent. Members attending were encouraged to discuss these and reflect on the effect on our lives.

We had a very successful coffee morning with a Bring and Buy stall and raised over £400 for the support of women in Tanzania. This money helps women access lessons in reading and numeracy as well as being able to start a credit scheme where they borrow money to start small businesses this in turn helps them to educate their children. Helping them to help themselves gives them confidence to take part in village life and benefits the whole community. Thanks to those who supported us.

Our next meeting on 3rd April welcomes the police.

NP



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Saturday
13th April 2024
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Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers church gates this month...

Over the last few months we've been looking at churchyards, grave memorials and the lychgate where the coffin may be rested on its entry.

This month we are going inside the church building to find a somewhat different and only really found in older churches that have survived re-ordering and renovations: the Easter Sepulchre.

A sepulchre is essentially a place of burial – a tomb – but in churches it can also be a receptacle for religious relics.

Easter Sepulchres can be very grand affairs. I'm aware that many writers say that they are constructed in wood, but I have only seen stone ones. They can be plain or intricately carved. They can be low to the ground or reaching up to the roof. Each style, of course, reflects both the richness and generosity of the patron, as well as their theology.

Some have 'layers' of carvings, with the angels at the top, then the patriarchs, followed by the Fathers of the Church and so on. Others are very simple and almost plain. They are normally set into or against the northern side of the sanctuary in which stands the altar, and which is traditionally considered to be the 'holiest' place in a church building.

Their use is given in their name – on Good Friday some consecrated bread and wine and often a crucifix (rather than an 'empty' cross) is placed inside it and people take it in turns to 'stand watch' until Easter Sunday morning, when it is taken out with great ceremony and often paraded through the building. The reason is to reflect the death of Christ, His being placed in a tomb and His subsequent resurrection.

Today's ceremonies are usually less ostentatious, and whilst folk often take turns keeping watch on the Maundy Thursday, reflecting the disciples being asked to stay awake whilst Jesus went and prayed alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, less is made of the Sepulchre watch.

The items are simply removed before any Easter resurrection service takes place, either on Easter Saturday evening or early Easter Sunday morning.

This month

See if you can find an Easter Sepulchre near you. Look at the decoration and consider all the different symbolisms it is trying to convey. If you cannot find one, then think what you would want to convey today?

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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 why a church should always resist change

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion.

One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway.

Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was.

A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Thought for the Month

Easter isn't a day, it's a season, and this year it lasts from Easter Sunday, 31st March right through to Ascension Day on Thursday 9th May. Those who know me will think that I only keep the full Easter season as an excuse to eat chocolate for 40 days!

But Easter is important. Easter matters. It is at the very heart of the Christian faith and hope. Easter is a reminder that God is God and we are not; and because God is God there is always hope, even in times and situations that seem hopeless - perhaps especially when times seem hopeless.

Easter is about resurrection, and resurrection only happens after you have been crucified, and it only happens as a gift or a miracle.

When we watch the news from around the world and at home we feel as if we are living in times where hope is a very rare commodity. It is so very easy to despair.

We see the terrible situation of the ordinary people of Gaza caught up in a war that seems to be being waged on the whole population; we think of those young people, so full of hope and life, murdered or taken hostage on the 7th October. We see the ongoing war in Ukraine and we pray for a peace that seems elusive. We see innocent men, women and children murdered by terrorists in Russia.

We might think of the deep divisions that have opened up in our own land in recent years and wonder how we can ever be united as one nation again.

Despair, hopelessness threatens to engulf us.

And this is why the Easter hope is so important today. Easter is the hope of new life. As Christians we celebrate Easter not only as something from history, but as a hope and a promise for all times, especially for the hard times.

At Easter we remember that this is God's world and that God has not and will not abandon us. Easter reminds us that God brings life out of death, joy from despair and hope for those who no longer have hope.

Our Easter "Alleluia" is God's promise that death and despair do not have the last word; Easter is hope, and we are an Easter people.

God bless you this Eastertide.

Eastertide is the period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It is celebrated as a single joyful feast, called the "great Lord's Day". Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter. In some traditions, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday of Eastertide and the following Sunday (Low Sunday) is the second Sunday of Eastertide and so on. Easter Sunday and Pentecost correspond to pre-existing Jewish feasts: The first day of Pesach and the holiday of Shavu'ot. In the Jewish tradition, the 49 days between these holidays are known as Counting of the Omer.

See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastertide>

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The 2023 cricket season was unusual in many ways, primarily the weather which affected so many matches with 6 or 7 cancelled for each team meaning that only two thirds of matches scheduled were played. So we look forward to the 2024 season in the hope that we will have much better weather, after one of the wettest winters in recent years. As I write in the March rain, we need 2 weeks of sun and wind to help conditions for the start of the season.

We welcome our overseas player to the first team, Harry Wood, who hails from the City of Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. Harry is a right handed batter and a right arm seam bowler. He currently plays for the Ipswich Hornets and previously was in the Queensland under-17s

and Australia under-19s.

The club has three senior teams, 5 junior teams and a ladies team so there is plenty of scope for anyone wishing to join us. Please make contact.

The club is also part of the ECB initiative to help children to learn cricket and will again be part of the All-Stars for children from 5 – 8 and Dynamos for children from 8 – 11. Please contact us or go to the ECB website - <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/>

All visitors are welcome to use the facilities in the pavilion where snacks and drinks are available.

Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane - 12 Noon start

20th April	1st XI	v	Cleethorpes 1st XI
27th April	1st XI	v	Tickhill 1st XI
4th May	2nd XI	v	Tickhill 2nd XI
11th May	1st XI	v	Barnsley 1st XI
18th May	2nd XI	v	Upper Haugh 1st XI
25th May	2nd XI	v	Darfield 1st XI
1st June	1st XI	v	Sheffield Collegiate 1st XI
2nd June	1st XI		T20 Cup with Elsecar and Tickhill
8th June	2nd XI	v	Wakefield 2nd XI

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592

Andrew Robinson

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

Date	Day	Colour
Sunday 7th April	2nd Sunday of Easter	White
Sunday 14th April	3rd Sunday of Easter	White
Sunday 21st April	4th Sunday of Easter	White
Sunday 28th April	5th Sunday of Easter	White



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What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series which will run for the next two years.

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('*The Lord saves*') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

World Autism Acceptance Week, 2nd – 8th April 2024

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

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.

Science and Society: How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour.

Psalm 8: 4-5



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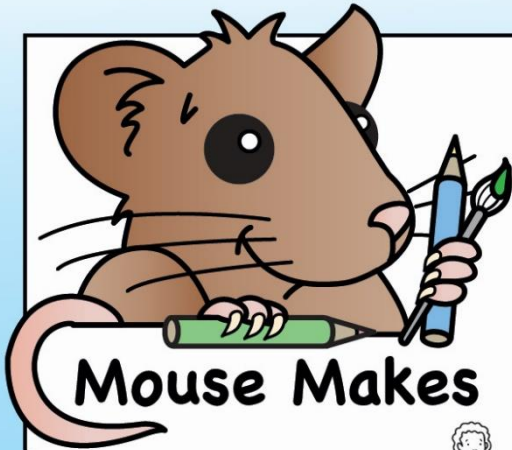
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Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing.

They fished all night but caught nothing.

As the sun rose a man on the shore asked;

"Have you caught anything?"

"Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them *"Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."*

So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man,

"It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11



READ

the story in **John 21**

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Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

A major new study recently found that humans eat more bananas than monkeys. I can't remember the last time I ate a monkey.

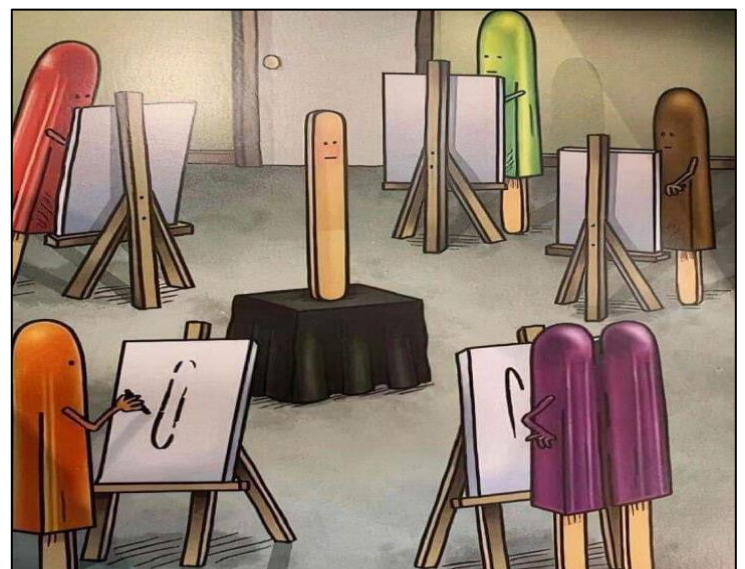
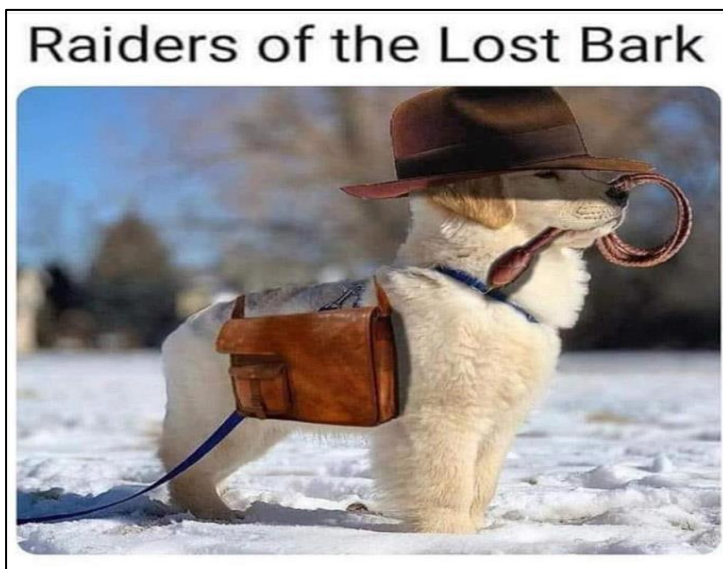
So you see - the Universe is made up of Protons, Electrons, Neutrons and Morons. Unfortunately, not in equal proportion.

Diet Tip: if you think you are hungry, you might be just thirsty. Have a beer first and then see how you feel.

There are two types of people. The one who says they're ready to go and means they're ready to go, and the one who says they're ready to go and means they just need to iron a top, send an email, make a sandwich, and go to the toilet. And they're usually married to each other.

A little boy goes up to Old Tom the gardener and says, 'What do you put on your rhubarb?' 'Well, usually rotted horse manure,' replies Old Ned. 'We have custard on ours.' says the little boy.

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So, I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!



<https://youtu.be/3C8fwipj44U?si=Fhq2GQluJ0zDjU5e>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lollipop>

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Prayer for the Month

The Jesus Prayer.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me a sinner.**

The Jesus Prayer comes to us from the Orthodox tradition.

It is a very simple prayer that 'works' with our breathing. It is a response to St Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5.17: "Pray without ceasing."

The prayer is very simple and can be memorised in a few minutes.

With the in-breath we silently pray the first phrase, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God." As we exhale we silently pray the second phrase, "have mercy on me a sinner."

It is a way of making silent prayer - meditation a constant activity; through prayer and meditation we grow closer to God. I was taught it when I was about 20 and have been trying to pray it since then. At first it requires a conscious effort; eventually it comes to us naturally and 'we find ourselves praying', meditating with our heart.

Jesus calls us to simplicity in our prayers: in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that when we pray we should not "heap up empty phrases," (Matthew 6.7) thinking that our prayers will be heard simply for the quantity of the words.

Saint John Climacus, (a sixth century monk and author of the great spiritual work Ladder of Divine Ascent) instructs us to "pray in all simplicity" warning us that if we "talk excessively in prayer, our mind can be distracted by our search for words. Brief prayer can help us concentrate.

I often use this prayer as a silent start to a time of meditation; I often pray it silently when I am praying for another and do not know how to pray or what to pray.

It is a simple prayer that resides in the heart.

As with all prayer, pray as you can, not as you can't! so if the Jesus Prayer helps you then it is a tool to use and a gift from the Orthodox tradition. If it does not help you then set it aside.

Learning to pray - To pray is to make our hearts ready to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying regularly will help us to develop a spiritual rhythm. A discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives, because it creates new habits of heart and mind. Prayer opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. We enter into God's presence, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in us.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/learning-pray>

The Treasure of Easter!

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers what Easter has given us

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God '*has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it '*is kept in heaven for you*' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: '*Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now*'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us '*with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*' (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, '*These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.*' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'



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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.

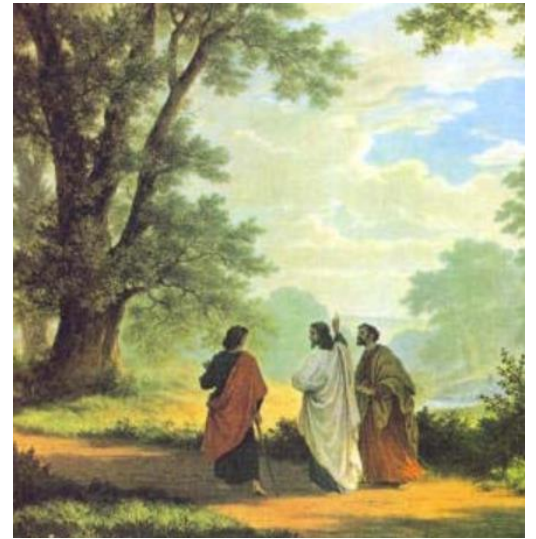
Any help most welcome. Thank you. Pat Wood

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).



Road to Emmaus by Robert Zund

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview.* As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why.... it's Jesus.*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

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The Gardening Year – April

If you have decided to grow in pots, how much space you have will determine how much food you can grow. Clearly some large crops such as brussels sprouts are not suitable for pots, but you can grow some small fruit trees and many other types of crops.

Your varieties will be limited by the amount of space you have to site containers and the size of the containers themselves. Patio and roof gardens, perhaps you have a small patio or roof garden. These are some of the best areas for container gardening. You can fill the space with containers, raised beds and planters of all shapes and sizes and make use of the ground by using grow bags.

You can design the garden layout easily to make maximum use of light and space. Don't forget to leave room around containers so you can get to them easily and remember that roof gardens often provide very little shade, so choose sun loving crops. No garden or balcony, do you live in a high-rise apartment or terraced house with no garden? In this case you need to look up instead of down. A few hanging baskets can be used to grow herbs, tumbling tomatoes and trailing edible flowers. You can attach wall planters to outside of a wall and plant salads or smaller baby vegetables. Be aware if you live in a listed building you may need permission to attach things to the walls.

If you did not plant your onion sets and early potatoes in March because of the wet weather April is still a good month to plant them. Main crop potatoes can be planted in April, make sure you leave enough soil either side of them to earth them up.

Sow parsley and salad crops when the soil is sufficiently dry to work to a fine tilth. Main crop peas can be planted now, soak the peas overnight in cold water, take out a drill a spade width. and two inches deep. The variety I grow is called onward, it is the sweetest pea I have ever grown and is the only pea I grow. It grows to about two foot high so will need support, I grow them on my allotment and I grow them in large pots. When planting them they need to be two inches apart in pots or soil.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – April

Vegetables - Asparagus, Broccoli, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Rocket, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress, Wild Nettles

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs - Basil, Chives, Dill, Sorrel

Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

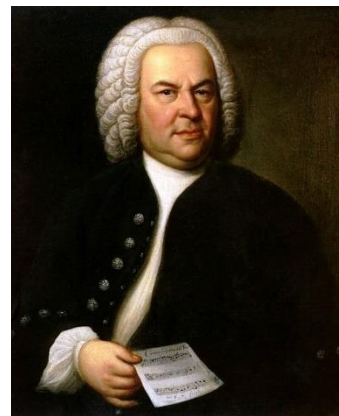
Fish - Cockles, Crab, Langoustine, Lobster, Plaice, Prawns, Salmon, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Whitebait

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.



Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

St. John Passion https://youtu.be/wX1DjogyVQE?si=Yqff52s0dPr_LTKm

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 https://youtu.be/pdsyNwUoON0?si=iVz_AZqy1yc0LJF

Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor <https://youtu.be/ho9rZjlsyYY?si=PfMtiG9gmqqscawg>

Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, and Arnold Schwarzenegger are making a movie about classical composers.

Sylvester Stallone said, "I'll be Mozart "

Bruce Willis said, "Then I'll be Beethoven."

Arnold Schwarzenegger announced, "In that case... I'll be Bach."

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here



ERIC EYRE

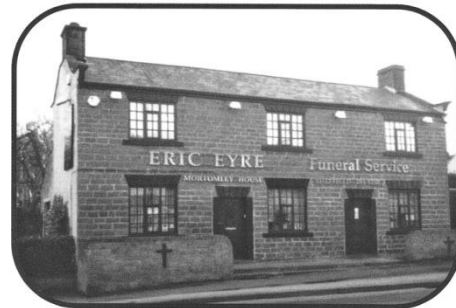
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It is time to eat Rhubarb

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 (the duck recipe below is a resounding success).



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 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.

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. 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.

Duck Recipe - Ingredients serve 4

One 2.5 lb (1.1kg) duck	4 or 5 cloves garlic chopped in half
Salt and freshly ground pepper	1 red onion, finely sliced
4 oz (125 g) fresh ginger	½ cup (125 mL) marsala or Vin Santo
4 oz (125 g) rhubarb	1 cups (250 mL) vegetable or chicken stock
Small bunch fresh sage, roughly chopped	1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C) - Season ducks generously, inside and out. Coarsely grate half of the ginger and half of the rhubarb. Mix in a bowl with half of the sage and all of the garlic and onion. Stuff inside the cavity of both ducks. Place them on a rack over a roasting pan and roast in the oven for 1 hour.

2. Reduce heat to 300°F (150°C) and cook for another hour and a half until crisp and tender. As the duck cooks, you will need to drain the fat into a bowl a few times - it will separate into clear fat, which you can keep for roasting. The ducks are ready when the skin is crisp and the leg bones can be easily loosened.

3. Once cooked, let the ducks rest on a warmed plate. Drain off any remaining fat from the roasting tray. Pull out all of the stuffing and any juices from the ducks and add into the roasting pan. Heat the pan on low heat, adding the marsala. Loosen any sticky bits on the bottom of the pan. Add stock and reduce to a good taste and consistency. Pass through a coarse sieve.

4. With a knife, remove the breasts from the ducks, and, using your hands, remove the thighs. Divide onto plates.

5. Finely slice the remaining ginger and fry on medium-high heat in hot oil in a nonstick frying pan. As it begins to colour, add the rest of your rhubarb, finely sliced, and finish with the rest of the sage, cooking until crisp. Sprinkle over the duck and drizzle with sauce.

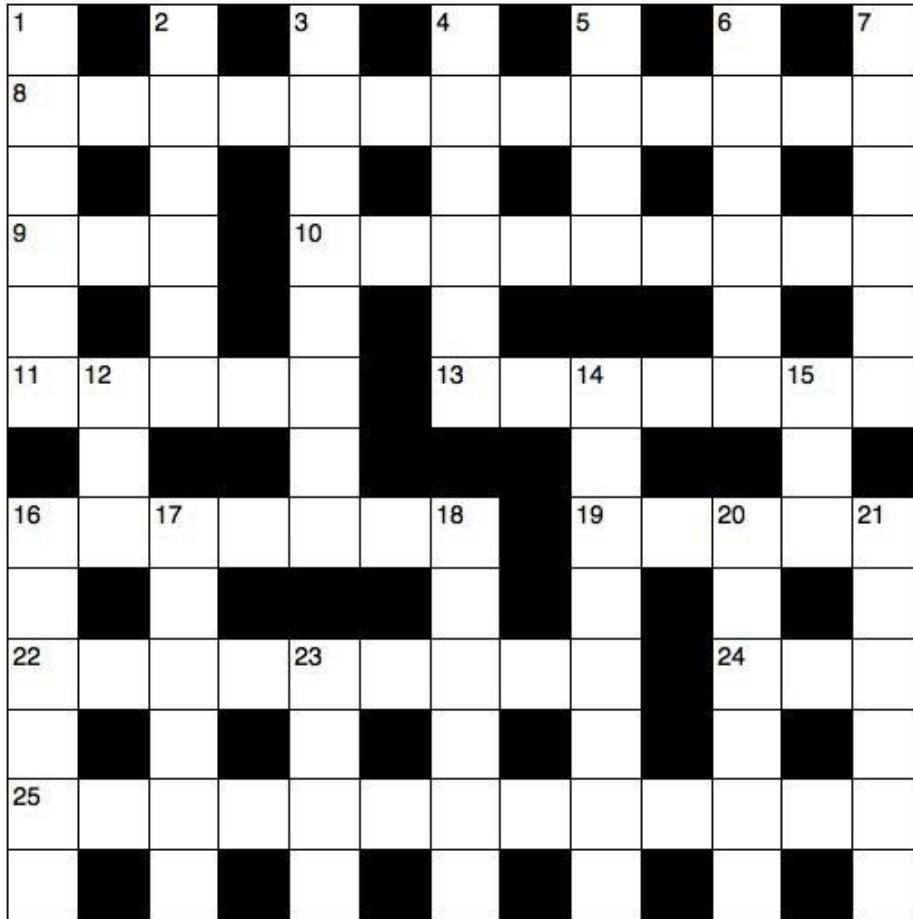
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Clues Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. “He looks a tough customer,” she whispered. “Whatever has HE done?” The Governor paused and smiled. “Ah, actually, he is the chaplain.”



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Chapelton & District Probus Club



Our Annual meeting took place in March and saw Neil Wilkinson take over as Chairman. Neil's father, George, had previously been a member of PROBUS, serving as Treasurer for some time. This was a bitter sweet event following the tragic death of Chairman Nick Tovey earlier in 2024.



Neil Wilkinson

Our visit to Highgove has been put in question as plans to visit in May have had to be changed. The first day the Highgrove office was open for bookings in 2024 already had no May dates available by 9 am! Seems rather similar to getting tickets for Taylor Swift! A provisional new date has been made for 3rd and 4th September.

We continue to welcome retired and semi-retired men including those still working but with time on their hands, Please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

Next month, we will welcome Paul Salter who will talk about his time as the Chief Fire and Safety Officer in South Yorkshire including at Sheffield University. The meeting will be followed by lunch at Wortley Hall.

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

10th April – Paul Salter – “Life as a Chief Fire Officer”

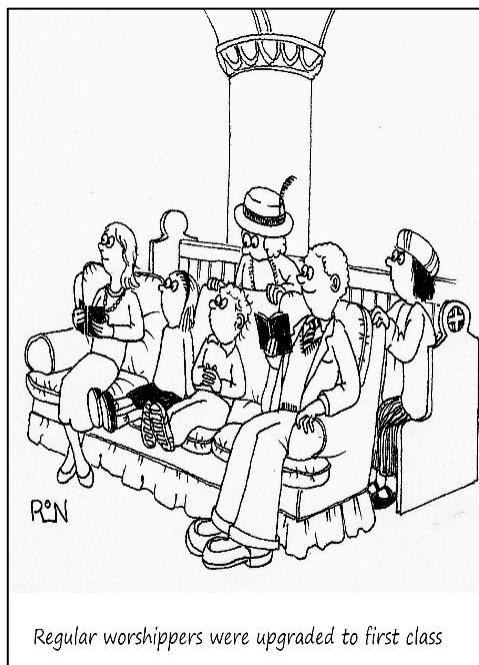
8th May – Paul Adey – “The History of Oil”

12th June – Nick Johnson – “More Tales from the Press Box”

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

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

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for April 2024- *By Daphne Kitching* - based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.
We are your Easter people. **Hallelujah. Amen**



The Rainbow - *By Nigel Beeton*

The world was so wicked that God made it rain
For forty long days and long nights
The floodwaters covered both mountain and plain
They covered the highest of heights!

But Noah survived, because he – free from guilt
Kept the Word of his God in his mind
So he and his kin, in the ark he had built
Lived with two beasts of every kind.

They floated by night and they floated by day
No sign of the land could they spy;
Till at last came the day when the flood drained
away
And a rainbow was seen in the sky.

And God said to Noah, "You see that bright bow?
"That rainbow up there in the sky?
"Now I've put it there as a sure sign to show
"Of a promise twixt mankind and I.

"In future you'll know that I won't make it rain
"So the whole earth is flooded that deep.
"Now the rainbow is there and will be again –
"And you'll know that this promise I'll keep."

On days when it seems that the rain just won't go
And the floodwaters fill us with fear;
At last comes the sun and the bright coloured bow –
Our God made that rainbow appear.

The Hand of Christ - *By Sam Doubtfire*

The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart into my
veins.
The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul
And in the life that Christ has won for all on Calvary's hill

I step out gladly into God's Creation,
There to praise the holy Name of God,
In triune-majesty forever reigning.

O God most high,
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.

We bow before the eternal throne
and, in the strength of love received,
we give your love in blessing
to your world.

The God who answers prayer - *By Megan Carter*

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne,
The Son of God who ever cares,
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers come
He knows the path that you now tread
Believe on Him though all seems lost
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,
Although it seems there's no way through,
Though pain and heartache both are near,
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear
A day when we all understand
That all our lives but marked a way
That led us to the Promised Land.

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
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Tel: Robert 0114 246 1095

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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

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whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk
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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 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



Vicar: 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	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Anne Rostron	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	245 5492
Bell Ringers Contact: Phil Hirst	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings		0780 307 8223
For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar		
Magazine e-mail:	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	



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