

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February 2024

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

Easter is quite early this year so that means we begin Lent during February. Watch out for information about the Lent Course which as usual will be on Wednesday evenings starting at 7.30pm.

There are **Marriage Preparation** sessions on **Saturday 3rd February at 10am**, and again on **Monday 5th February at 7pm**.

On **Sunday 4th February at 12-noon** we have **Baptisms** in Church.

Saturday 10th February 9am Prayer Breakfast, and at **10.30 Bereavement Cafe**.

On **Mon 12th Feb at 7pm** we have **Baptism Preparation** in Church.

Ash Wednesday is on 14th February. We will mark this with a service of Holy Communion and imposition of ashes at **7.30pm**.

Wednesday 21st and 28th of February 7.30pm Lent Course

Lent 2024 at St Mary's – Praying the Passion with Saint Luke

On Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in Church:

21st February	Jesus enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40)
28th February	Jesus' Last Supper (Luke 22:14-23)
6th March	Jesus prays in the Garden & is arrested (Luke 22:39-53)
13th March	Jesus is sentenced to death (Luke 23:13-26)
20th March	The Crucifixion (Luke 23:32-50)

For more information see Tim

Is Lent 40 days

Lent for Christians starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on either the evening of Maundy Thursday or on sundown of Holy Saturday (day before Easter Sunday). However the practices of Lent do not end until sundown on Holy Saturday for all Christian denominations. So it is 44 days from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday and another two days with Good Friday and Holy Saturday added to give a total of 46 days for Lent. But Sundays are excluded from fasting during Lent and with 6 Sundays removed from the count we get lent being a 40 day liturgical period.

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Mothers' Union – December (2023)

We enjoyed an excellent afternoon in December when we gathered to sing carols and hear the Christmas story from readings, and poems this was followed by mince pies and cakes made by members. The time together was led by Jeni Fryer and everyone agreed it was a lovely way to anticipate our Christmas.

Our meeting in January was chaired by the Reverend Sam Elmore as it was the Annual Meeting. We had an overview of the past year given by Norma Priest which had been quite successful with two enrolments and two more in the pipeline. The speakers had been varied and helped us understand many of the problems many people have today. We have supported the projects sponsored by our organisation both in monetary terms and with their requests for women and children helping to make their lives easier. Our accounts were passed and thanks given to the treasurer for her presentation and making them easy to understand.

We had three resignations from the committee but two more people offered their willingness to stand and there was an offer to help with the secretary's job.

The Reverend Sam Elmore gave us an insight to a passage from Hebrews which encouraged us in our work for and with the Mothers' Union, and was appreciated by all. Thanks were extended to Sam and the committee for their work and support during the past year.

Norma

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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’: the *Nunc Dimittis*

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc Dimittis*.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, ‘Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.’ It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the *Nunc Dimittis* have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov’s setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: ‘a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,’ one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, “After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, ‘Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!’ Nevertheless, he did find them.” It was one of the composer’s favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his ‘ship of death gently towards the unknown region.’”

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

Nunc Dimittis (From "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy") · Paul Phoenix · The Boys of the St Paul's Cathedral Choir · Camille Saint-Saëns · Geoffrey Burgon

Jubilate! Golden Favourites from St. Paul's Cathedral © 1994 Guild Music
Released on: 1994-01-01 - Music Publisher: J and W Chester Ltd.

https://youtu.be/Y3suBkZ1alg?si=D9UX1DPSxtA_o0Zh

'Lenten Valentines'

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the subject of 'real love'

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'

With Valentine's Day in mind....

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - *Anon*

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - *Helen Rowland*

What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - *William M Thackeray*

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. - *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, Love, thou art every day my Valentine! - *Thomas Hood*

The heart has its reason, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances. - *Blaise Pascal*



“Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.”

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

This Lent we are encouraged to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face.

The Church of England’s Lent theme for 2024 is Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, “Stay here with me ... Watch and pray,” they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.

This Lent all of us are encouraged to draw on the wisdom of Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of “tarrying” (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. Combining exuberant singing, fervent prayer and quiet lament, such services typically take place at night and last somewhat longer than the “one hour” Jesus asked of those first followers.

This year’s resources have been inspired and informed by the 2024 Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book, Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith by Selina Stone (SPCK). The daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP) exploring the same themes has been written by Carlton Turner, and there is also a daily challenge booklet for children and families (CHP).

Watch and Pray invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.

<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/tarry-awhile-drawing-on-the-riches-of-black-spirituality-for-the-whole-church-800>

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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 rural church-goers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

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

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

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

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

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

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close your car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Quote for the Month

Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it. - *Martin Luther King*

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Thought for the Month

According to the poet T.S Eliot in his great poem *The Waste Land* 'April is the cruellest month.' For me it is not April but February that is the cruellest month. By the beginning of February we have already had two months of winter and another lies ahead. By the time February rolls around I have had enough of dark, grey days and long cold nights. I want to see some sunshine, I want to see more daylight. I want to feel warm again!

By February I am usually deep in the winter blues. Everything I do seems to be more of an effort. I feel less positive, less hopeful generally. I suppose it is a mild version of SAD (seasonal affective disorder). Most of us are suffering from this to some extent by the time we reach February.

This year I decided to try to do something about my annual winter blues. I am determined to practice thankfulness as a daily discipline. To remind myself at the start of the day of the many good things in my life. To remember that so much comes to me as a gift, not something I have earned or even deserve. It begins with the gift of life itself. We do not create ourselves, our lives and every day of our life is a gift. The talents that we may have are a gift too - we can develop them and they will flourish or we can ignore them and they will wither, but they are given to us.

Most of us know or have known what it is to love and to be loved. Love can be received and cherished but it can't be earned, it comes to us as a gift.

I try to begin each day giving thanks for the good gifts of life in general, and in the evening I say 'Thank-you' for the specific gifts of the day that is ending: the kind word of a person at a meeting, the joy of time spent with children, the food that I have enjoyed, the company of those who love me, the music that I have listened to during the day.

The more I have tried to be thankful this winter, the more I have seen just how much I have to be grateful for. I see the truth - that life and every part of life is surrounded by gifts. The theological word for this is grace. We are held by grace in every moment of our lives.

As a Christian I try to see God in all things and certainly to see the hand of God in all of the gifts which make my life meaningful and worthwhile. I see God at work in the natural world, in the love of strangers and friends and family.

Thankfulness is at the heart of what we do in Church. We give thanks for life and love in Baptism and in Marriage. When someone we love dies, we mourn their loss, but we also give thanks for the good things and for the love which they brought into our lives.

This is all summed up in the service of Holy Communion. We thank God for the fruits of creation in the bread and the wine; we hold our sisters and brothers and our world in prayer. We give thanks for God's love for us, made flesh in Jesus and commemorated in the Eucharist - which, of course, comes from the Greek word for 'Thanksgiving.'

I write these words in January; February hasn't yet arrived. Will the discipline of thankfulness help with my winter blues? I don't know, but I have learned just how much I truly have to be thankful for. Perhaps this year I will even be able to thank God for the gift of February!

God bless,
Tim.

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

Food shortages are ‘likely’ this year

You might find some supermarket shelves empty in the coming months.

A combination of global conflicts, climate change and transportation issues are making it harder for food producers to get their products out of the field and onto your plate. And as at the end of last month (January), it got even more complicated, with the introduction of new checks on the goods coming from the EU into the UK.

Professor Chris Elliott of Queen’s University Belfast is a food security expert. He explains: “It’ll be about affordability but also availability, and the likelihood of empty shelves, particularly fresh produce shelves, in 2024 is alarmingly high.”

Professor Elliott said: “We are virtually totally dependent on other countries for most of our fresh produce, our fruit and our vegetables. We were reasonably self-sufficient in dairy, we were reasonably self-sufficient in poultry and eggs. But that’s also on the decline now, as a result of the collapse of some sectors of the food industry in the UK.”

According to the gov.uk website, just under half of the actual food on our plates is produced within the UK.

The cost of parking at your local hospital

Have you been a patient or visitor to a hospital this past year? If so, you are not imagining it: the cost of parking there has skyrocketed. In fact, parking charges for hospital patients and visitors have leapt by £50 million in a year.

Recent NHS accounts show that hospital trusts made nearly £146 million in income from patients and visitors in 2022-3. That is a whopping 50 per cent increase from the £97 million received the year before.

There has also been a major jump in the amount hospital staff have to pay to park. In 2021-22 the staff members paid just £5.6 million, which increased to £46.7 million in 2022-23. These latest figures have been met with criticism from Royal College of Nursing, which has slammed the growing cost of parking for staff.

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

Date	Day	Colour
4 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
14 th February	Ash Wednesday	Purple
18 th February	First Sunday of Lent	Purple
25 th February	Second Sunday of Lent	Purple
3 rd March	Third Sunday of Lent	Purple



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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 14th January

Shanice Anita Susan Allen

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

Marriages

Saturday 16th December

Shaun Jay Smith & Laura Geraldine Hutchings

Saturday 27th January

Francis Khan Rowan & Jodie Alisha Hobson

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

Funerals

Thursday 7th December

Florence Hilda Birds

Tuesday 19th December

Freda France

Monday 15th January

Terence Maurice Fairhurst

Wednesday 17th January

Edward Robert William Longworth

Wednesday 25th January

Margaret Ann Oxley

Monday 29th January

Josephine Lilian Scaife

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

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Genesis

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

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is supremely about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: 'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them' (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendants (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

Because there was no magazine in January the second part of this new series is on page 27

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.

Celebrating the now and future Creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation's winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

Quotes - With Lent in mind...

Some Christians are not only like salt that has lost its savour, but like pepper that has lost its pep. - *Albert George Butzer*

Christianity is the total commitment of all I know of me to all I know of Jesus Christ. - *William Temple*

Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity. - *E H Chapin*

God would not rub so hard, were it not to fetch out the dirt and spots that be in his people. - *Thomas Brooks*

God denies a Christian nothing but with a design to give him something better. - *Richard Cecil*

It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus. - *Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

I am so busy at this present time I cannot do with less than four hours each day in the presence of God. - *Martin Luther*



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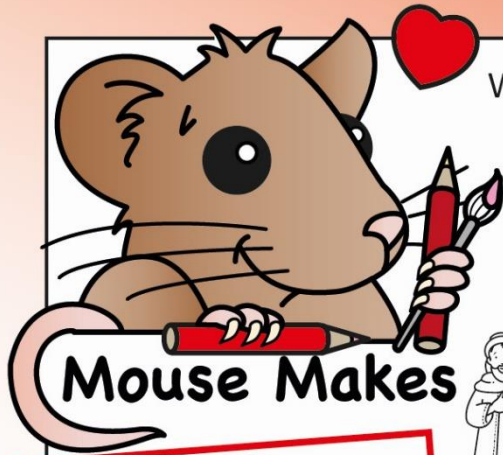
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Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



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- AQUILA RACHEL
- JOSEPH SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

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FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

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 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

What starts with a W and ends with a T. Yes, it really does, honest...

Little known fact: Before the Crowbar was invented, crows simply drank at home.

A new airplane has been developed that cannot crash. Made from rubber polymers, it will just bounce. The craft was invented by Boeing, Boeing, Boeing.

Apparently, this month there will be constant rane, thundre, litnin, hy tydes, tawnnaydoes and frizzing colde. Just another really bad spell of weather.

I've reached the age when my train of thought often leaves the station without me...

Mnemonic - Brian Bilston

Thirty days has September,
April, June and November.
Unless a leap year is its fate,
February has twenty-eight.
All the rest have three days more,
excepting January, which has six thousand,
one hundred and eighty-four.



Found out after 41 years that there are no pockets in the pool tables in the "Beat It" video

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



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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who_Wants_to_Be_a_Millionaire%3F

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



Prayer for the Month

**Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

The alternative prayer for Ash Wednesday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 14th February. Each Lent there are three journeys that I make. Lent is firstly a journey to Easter. During this season we 'travel' with Jesus and His disciples from Galilee to Jerusalem. We walk the way of the Cross which leads us to the Resurrection and the joy of Easter.

But there is a second journey that we make in Lent. It is an inner journey of self-discovery. In Lent we ask the Holy Spirit to help us to see ourselves, not through the prism of our self image, but with the eyes of God; with truth and compassion.

I often spend 10 or 15 minutes in the evening reflecting on the past day. I look at what has happened during the day, how I spoke or acted; I try to remember the inner changes during the day. I try to honestly face the things I need to seek forgiveness for as well as the things I need to give thanks for. And I ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

I seek forgiveness and healing; I ask the Spirit of God to guide me tomorrow. I put my life, the good and the bad, into God's hands. I know that God knows me better and more truly than I know myself; I trust that God's love for me is greater than my sin and failures. I put my past and my future into God's hands.

As we get closer to the celebration of Easter Paul's words become the focal point of my prayers: "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). This is the third journey. It is not just a Lenten journey; it is the journey of life. I reflect on the many years that I have been a Christian and tried to follow Christ. I know that I am not yet what I want to be. Lent reveals to me how far I still have to go in following Jesus. But I can also give thanks for the changes and the growth that have been made over the years.

All in me that does not flow from Love, from the God who is Love, must die. This is the 'Adam'; and one day, I will be the person that God made me to be - this will not be a result of my efforts or my work - it will be God's gift: "in Christ shall all be made alive." In God's kingdom I will be whole; I will be healed. This is the promise of Easter and the hope of Lent.

May your Lenten journey draw you closer to Christ and closer to becoming the person that Christ calls you to be. Amen.

The Day the Music Died

It was 65 years ago, on 3rd February 1959, that American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa. Thanks to Don McLean and his eight-minute hit song American Pie, it became known as “the day the music died”.

Buddy Holly was a rock ‘n’ roll pioneer who is widely regarded as having sparked a ‘quantum leap’ in popular musical output in the post-war years, being admired by such stars as Elvis Presley and John Lennon. He was born in Lubbock, Texas, to a Christian family and attended a Baptist church where he made a commitment and was baptised.

At the time of the plane crash – attributed to their young pilot’s inexperience in appalling weather conditions – Holly, 22, Valens, 17, and the 28-year-old Big Bopper (J P Richardson), together with other musicians, were on what they described as “the tour from hell”, travelling hundreds of miles each day by bus in temperatures as low as minus 35F.

After a concert in Clear Lake, Iowa, Holly decided to rent a private plane to get to Fargo, North Dakota, for the next concert. He planned to take his band members, Waylon Jennings and Tommy Allsup, with him, but Valens tossed a coin for Allsup’s seat and won. Jennings then gave his seat to the Big Bopper, who was unwell.

Holly’s young wife Maria learned about his death on television and suffered a miscarriage. His mother heard the news of his death on radio. Since then, news media have introduced rules to prevent the names of people who die in accidents being revealed before the family itself is informed. Maria did not attend his funeral and has reportedly never been to his grave, but she preserved and promoted his music after his death.



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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

Ukraine - Two Years Later

Although Russian troops were massing near the borders of Ukraine in February 2022, we naively believed their denial that an attack was imminent.

Since then, an all-out war has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands of military casualties. A quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced. Eight million are now refugees, spread across Europe.



Few of us realised that a war between the two countries really started in 2014, when pro-Russian regions of Ukraine rebelled and Crimea was annexed.

Hostilities between the two countries had begun even earlier. Ukraine had joined the Soviet Union in 1922 and ten years later lost more than a million of its population in the 'Holodomor' famine, now widely regarded as genocide inflicted by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader.

Relationships between the two countries have always been turbulent, and Russia's possessive attitude towards its neighbour is deeply resented.

Ukrainian refugees in the UK are mainly women and children, for their men are needed for war service. So, they have organised themselves into self-help groups, painstakingly learning to read and write in English, as well as working full or part-time and keeping up their morale by organising groups for young and old. Choirs have sprung up, often assisted by British musicians. One member wrote movingly of how singing helped her cope with the mental trauma of her homeland fighting for survival.

Ukrainians are unceasingly grateful for our hospitality, but they fear our compassion may wear thin, as our attention has been diverted by news of the barbarity between Israelis and Palestinians. That conflict also has a long history of smouldering hatred on both sides. Wars rarely solve disputes. When wearied people recognise their futility, settlements may be negotiated. Forgiveness takes longer.

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The Gardening Year – February

February is a quiet month for gardeners, so this month I will remind your readers of the benefits of fertilisers and garden lime.

Most soil contains natural plant food in varying degrees because they are constantly being utilised for plant growth, and are also leached out of the soil, they have to be replenished with fertilizers and manures.

Of the numerous chemical elements in the soil, Nitrogen, Phosphates, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium and Sulphur are required in substantial quantities. Iron, Boron, Zinc, Magnesium, Copper and Molybdenum are present as minor or trace elements and are required only in small quantities.

Nutrient materials are absorbed in solution by the roots of plants, of the six major elements, nitrogen, phosphate and potassium are the most important and must be available in the correct balance. Only in the case of severe deficiencies do trace elements need to be supplemented.

Fertilisers maybe of organic or inorganic origin, they are derived from animal and or vegetable matter, from mineral deposits or produced synthetically. Inorganic fertilisers are often termed "artificial" or chemical fertilisers, but this does not imply an inferior quality.

An important difference between organic and inorganic fertiliser is that the chemical elements in organic fertilisers have to go through a process of conversion before they become available to plants. Consequently an organic fertiliser is long lasting. In an inorganic fertiliser the plant nutrients are readily available and are therefore quick acting.

Nitrogen the most essential element in plant nutrition is used up rapidly and must be replaced frequently. Phosphate is essential for the development of roots, it also encourages maturity and ripening of fruits and seeds. Potassium - this nutrient is essential for the production of flowers and is of particular value to plants grown for their fruiting qualities.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – February

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

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

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

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

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Remembering Sir Ernest Shackleton

by Tim Lenton

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 15th February 1874, Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in County Kildare, Ireland – into a family that was English in origin and had Quaker connections. Sir Ernest was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

His father, Henry, was a farmer, who then qualified as a doctor, and the family moved to Sydenham, London in 1884. Ernest learnt seafaring in the Merchant Navy, becoming in turn second mate, third officer and first mate, before certifying as a master mariner in 1898: this qualified him to command a British ship anywhere in the world.



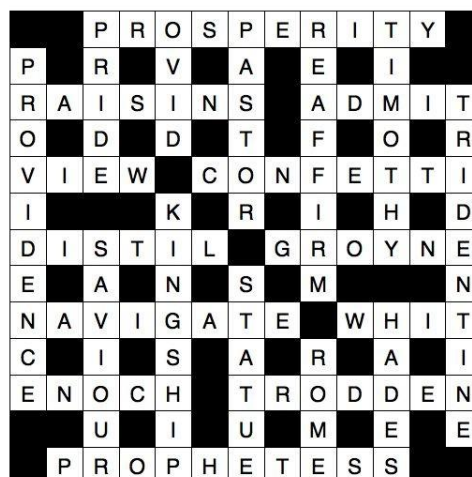
Expeditions he led included the *Nimrod* (1907-09), the *Endurance* (1914-17) and the *Quest* (1920-22). He was also on Scott's earlier *Discovery* expedition, but was invalided home early. From early on he had health problems, and the medical officer on the *Nimrod* expedition believed he had a hole in the heart.

Shackleton was described as spiritual but not religious. While crossing the mountains in South Georgia with two others to complete his heroic rescue of the crew of the *Endurance*, he and his companions said they were aware of a fourth presence, which they called 'providence', walking with them.

Although Shackleton did not make any major discoveries or register any notable firsts in Antarctica, he took part in some amazingly courageous enterprises and, although he was largely overlooked for many years, is now regarded as one of the giants of polar exploration, always admired by his crewmen. He died of a heart attack on the *Quest* at the age of 47 and was buried – at his wife's request – in the graveyard of the English church at Grytviken in South Georgia.

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

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here



ERIC EYRE

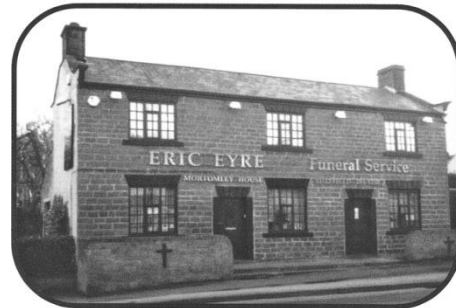
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It is time to eat Purple Sprouting Broccoli

After a fairly sparse couple of months on the leafy veg front, the start of the purple sprouting broccoli season marks a welcome addition to the winter vegetable palate. Simply steamed or boiled, it partners almost any fish or meat dish, and it also takes centre stage in excellent dishes such as Charred broccoli with anchovy, lemon and chilli.



Origins - Broccoli comes from the Italian word brocco meaning branch or arm. Roman epicure Marcus Gavius Apicius, creator of one of the earliest known recipe books, describes preparing broccoli "with a mixture of cumin and coriander seeds, chopped onion plus a few drops of oil and sun-made wine."

Purple sprouting broccoli was initially cultivated by the Romans. Broccoli has been grown in the UK since the early 18th century, although the purple sprouting variety has only risen to prominence in the last 30 years. Broccoli is a cruciferous plant, in the same family as the cabbage, and is closely related to the cauliflower.

Purple sprouting broccoli is especially good when young and tender. Look for darkly coloured specimens with crisp stalks, no bigger than 1cm in diameter, which snap cleanly when broken. Reject bendy broccoli and store in the fridge for up to a week. Split thicker stalks about halfway up so that they cook at the same time as the heads. Steam, stir-fry or boil in a small amount of water. The tasty leaves are edible and so do not need to be removed.

Nutrition - Cruciferous foods are now hailed as having a number of important health benefits. Purple sprouting broccoli contains the phytochemical sulphoraphane (thought to help prevent cancer) and may provide resistance against heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes. It is packed with vitamin C and is a good source of carotenoids, iron, folic acid, calcium, fibre and vitamin A.

Charred broccoli with anchovy, lemon and chilli (Starter or vegetable side dish – serves 4)

Ingredients

- 300g Tenderstem broccoli, halved lengthways
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- ½ red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
- 5 anchovy fillets in oil, drained and roughly chopped
- 2 tsp lemon juice

Method

Cook the broccoli in a pan of simmering water for 5 mins until just tender. Drain and transfer to a bowl of iced water to stop the cooking process.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Fry the shallots for 3-4 mins until softened and beginning to brown. Stir in the garlic, chilli and anchovies and fry for 1 min. Drain the broccoli, add to the pan and stir-fry over a high heat for 2 mins or until the broccoli becomes crispy and starts to char. Season with the lemon juice and black pepper to serve.

Crossword Puzzle

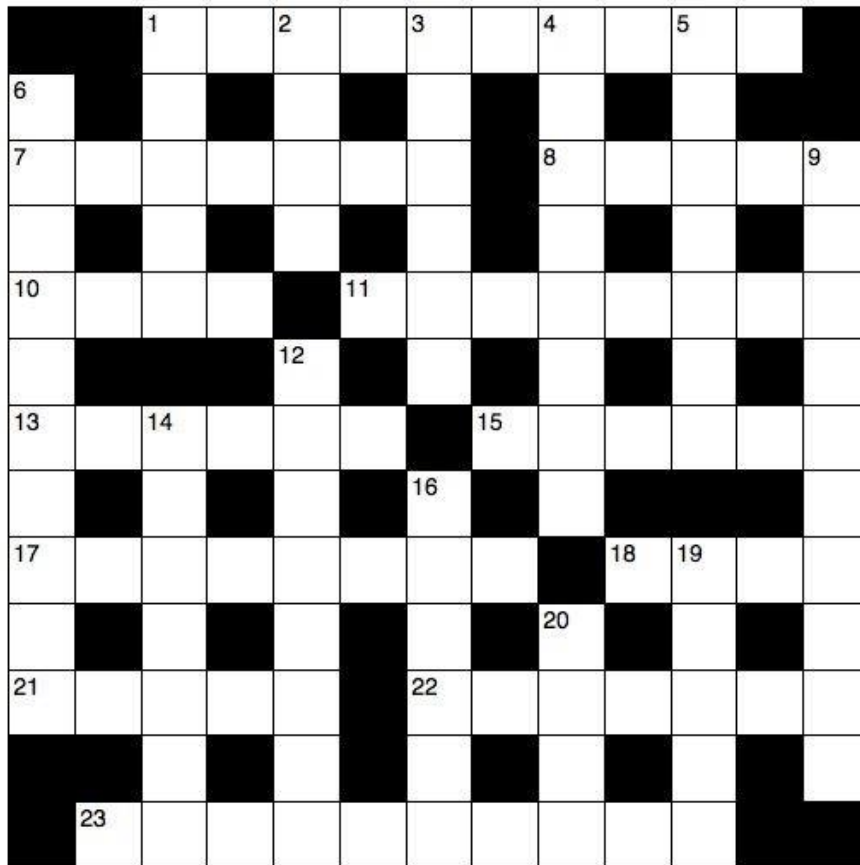
Clues Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Off to the vet - In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"



What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus

Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years.

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title '*the LORD*'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.' (Eugene Peterson).

Chapelton & District Probus Club



On 10th January, we welcomed back well-known local historian David Templeman as our speaker. David has revised his presentations on the ancient suburbs of what is now Sheffield City and presented his overall introduction with some of the areas focused. Fascinating facts about our city although ancient areas like Ecclesfield were not covered because, in recent times they were in the West Riding, not Sheffield. After the presentation, most there adjourned to Wortley Hall for lunch.

Surprisingly, in spite of articles in this magazine and the equivalent in Ecclesfield, many have still not heard of PROBUS. We aim to give a friendly meeting place once a month for retired, semi-retired men and those with time on their hands. We also offer three lunches and one dinner each year to which friends and partners are invited as well as 4 or 5 visits a year to which friends and partners are also invited. 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).

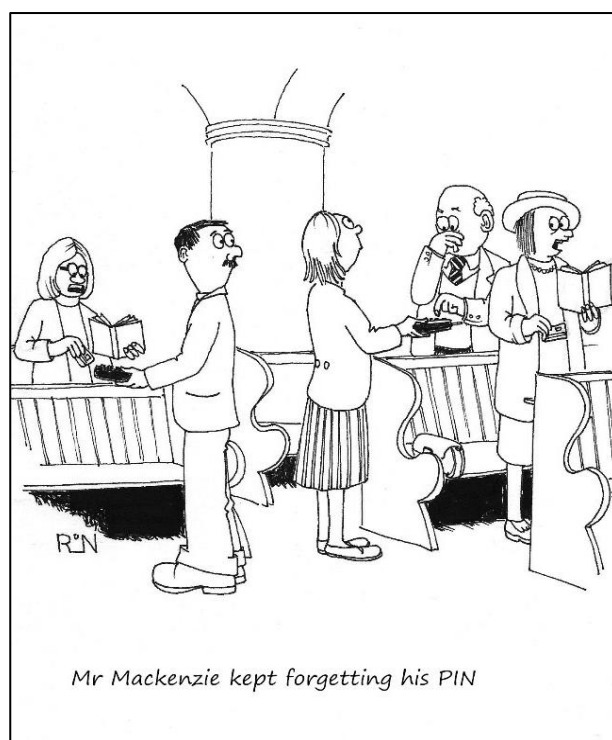
Next month we welcome Melvyn Cook who will present a film story of his many visits to Africa to explore the wildlife. On February 20th there is the Winter Lunch at Wortley Hall and on 19th March there will be a talk about Wortley Hall and the Wharnccliffe family followed by afternoon tea – guests invited to both these events.

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

- 14th February – Melvyn Cook – “African Wildlife Bonanza”
- 13th March – Annual Meeting with Quiz
- 10th April – Paul Salter – “Life as a Chief Fire Officer”

Contact details: E-Mail chapelton.probus@gmail.com
Website <https://chapelton-probus.org.uk/>

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for February 2024 - By Daphne Kitching

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,

Amen.

Transfiguration - By Nigel Beeton

Reveal Thyself to me,
Transfigured shining Son!
Thy Holy radiance may I see
God's own anointed One.

The prophets there with Thee
What stories do they tell?
What holy words of mystery?
What glories do they spell?

Then, God's own mighty voice
Rolling through shrouding cloud;
Must make the hardest heart rejoice
To hear Him clear and loud:

"This, my beloved Son!
"Listen to what He says
"Know that He is the chosen One
"And follow Him all thy days!"

Winter Now

From a poem by Samuel Longfellow 1819-92

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry days.

To my Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare me with ye women if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold....

From a poem by Anne Bradstreet, 1612-72

I've been replaced by a Robot!

I've been replaced by a robot -
His name is 'Chat GPT.'
He is a poet of a robot -
And that's what troubles me.

He can read in a moment
Shakespeare, Keats, and Lear -
More in that one single moment
Than I can read in a year!

He has an acceptable metre;
His work runs quite nicely to time,
His work gets neater and neater,
And he is quite good with a rhyme!

In fact, so good is his manner
The robot is quite hard to see:
So, I'll have to dumb down my grammar:
"This poem, it woz writ by me!"

By Nigel Beeton

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
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Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 246 1289

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Tel: 0114 245 2780

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Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
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Leader - Joanna Steel
0797 263 7908
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Shane Porteous
shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

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Leader - Bryony Hemming
25thecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com

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whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk
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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



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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
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