News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine July 2024

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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First Words

It's July! My birthday month *wink* – there are also some other dates worthy of the church diary: We will be continuing our worshiping patterns of **Sunday services** of **Holy Communion** at **10am** and **Evening Prayer** at **6.30pm**, with additional **Holy Communion** services on **Thursdays**, at **9.30am**. **Morning Prayer** (using 'Common Worship') is also said in church most Tuesdays at **8.30am** (with optional silence from **8.15am**). All are welcome.

On Sunday 7th July, there will be two **baptisms** at **12 noon**, after the morning service.

On Saturday 13th July, there will be 'Prayer Breakfast' from 9am, and 'Bereavement Café' at 10.30am.

On **Sunday 14th July**, we will have our monthly intergenerational, '**Prayer & Praise**' service at **10am**, and we will celebrate our principal **Holy Communion** service at **6.30pm**.

On Monday 15th July, there will be a fabric team meeting in church at 2pm.

On Monday 22nd July, there will be a baptism preparation in church at 7pm.

On Wednesday 24th July, there will be a wedding in church at 10.30am, as well as a finance meeting at 2pm.

On Monday 29th July, there will be a PCC meeting in church at 7.30pm.

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate

Front Cover – Water Lily (Nymphaea from web)

Derivation of the botanical name: Nymphaea, from the Greek term "Nυμφαία", possibly related to "Nύμφη" meaning "nymph". The nymphs in Greek and Roman mythology were supernatural feminine, attractive and playful water nymphs of the same habitat.

Back Cover - EPPiC Theatre Poster "Your Song"

"Your Song" is a song written by musician Elton John and lyricist Bernie Taupin, and performed by John. It was John's first international Top 10 chart single. <u>https://youtu.be/GIPIfCy1url?si=GypH4oZzI2GAtLv2</u>

"Your Song" was first released by American rock band Three Dog Night in March 1970 as an album track on It Ain't Easy. <u>https://youtu.be/9DZvJQ0PTEg?si=40EINiRDTYw_tm-5</u>

John was an opening act for the band at the time and allowed them to record it. They did not release it as a single as they wanted to let John, then an upcoming artist, have a go with it. John's version was recorded at Trident Studios in London in January 1970 and appeared in April as the first cut on his self-titled second studio album. Following "Border Song" as the first album single, "Your Song" was released in the United States in October 1970 as the B-side to "Take Me to the Pilot". Both sides received airplay, but "Your Song" was preferred by disc jockeys and replaced "Take Me to the Pilot" as the A-side, eventually making it to number eight on the Billboard chart. The song also peaked at number 7 on the UK Singles Chart, as well as charting in the top 10 in several other countries. *From Wikipedia*

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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': J S Bach's joy and dance

In 1956 a small novel by a German writer, Johannes Rüber, appeared in an English translation. It was called 'Bach and the Heavenly Choir' and tells of Pope Gregory XIX's desire to elevate Bach to the ranks of the saints. To bring together the Lutheran bishop and his own cardinals, he organises a great Bach festival in Rome. At the festival he announces his plan and the reasoning behind it: that in J S Bach 'faith has become music.'

In that realisation lies the grace and glory of Bach's achievement, and why we treasure his works today. The irony is that the bulk of his music was never published in his lifetime. The six Brandenburg Concerti, beautifully copied out and offered, were never performed and the music put in a cupboard. His music in all probability would have been lost for ever had it not been for a young Mendelssohn, who just happened to find a manuscript of the St Matthew Passion in his music teacher's house. He recognised it for its brilliancy and beauty and ordered a massive search to unearth the decaying manuscripts.

So much of Bach's music was inspired by his joy in believing. Just consider one of the six motets, 'Jesu, meine Freude' (Jesus, my joy). It was probably written for a memorial service in July 1723. In his other works, freude, or 'joy', releases new movement. In this motet, the word is kept within the constraints of the chorale melody that acts as a framework for the motet. The word that brings a joyous release is Geist, Spirit – when it appears, then each voice joins in the chase as notes spill over the page and into our ears, proclaiming the inspiration of God's Spirit in human life.

This spirit of joy helps us realise that what makes Bach's music so vital and rewarding is that total sense of movement and dance. Wilfred Mellers wrote a book 'Bach and the Dance of God,' showing how so much of Bach's music is dance-inspired from lively gavottes to more stately sarabandes that can be heard in both the instrumental and choral music. Widor, like Bach a great organist, wrote that 'For me Bach is the greatest of preachers.'

And what does he preach? That in the end, all is dance and life in the power of God's Spirit. In 'Jesu, meine Freude' as in all his music we hear and relish the movement and pulse of his compositions that open up for us a world where all is joy and dance. That is how Dante ended his vision of Paradise, where everything is movement and dance, and what moves the sun and the other stars is love.

What built St Paul's Cathedral?

What built St Paul's Cathedral? Look at the heart of the matter – it was that divine Hebrew Book, the word partly of the man Moses, an outlaw tending his Midianitish herds, four thousand years ago, in the wilderness of Sinai! It is the strangest of things, yet nothing is truer. - *Thomas Carlyle*

The Olympic Games Canon Paul Hardingham looks forward to Paris...

This month sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles' (1) - As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (e.g. possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' (1) - The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is *marked out* for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (2) - The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us *('author')*, but is the one who can show us how to finish well (*'perfecter'*).

We are also surrounded by a 'great cloud of witnesses' (1). These are God's people, both past and present, who are cheering us on! - During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let's not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!



Mother's Union Meeting

We were pleased to have a visit from our Diocesan President at our last meeting.

She gave us an insight of what is happening in the diocese and how we can be involved. I think some members were surprised at the variety of activities we are involved in.

We have supported the Clewer project with clothes and toiletries for exploited people and many people knit for Baby Basics an organisation which helps mothers with babies and young children who are struggling to provide for them. We supply our local refuges who care for women escaping violence with clothes, toiletries and starting out baskets when they are ready to move out. Many other acts of kindness are supplied where branches know of a need. All this besides the active work undertaken by members in their churches.

Our branch is actively helping the 'Away from it all' holiday scheme in August as we are having an 'Afternoon Tea ' in the Church to raise money for a family who have-never been able to enjoy a time away together. We hope many people will support us in this as we will be selling tickets from this weekend . Tickets for this can be obtained from any Mothers' Union Member. Our previous efforts have been very successful with lovely homemade cakes and scones, sandwiches and tea or coffee.

Norma Priest



Mothers' Union Subs

Local subs are now due: £10.00 in an envelope with your name on the front please. Cash or cheque is ok. This money pays for the hire of the Gatty Hall for our meetings and cards and flowers for our members who are ill or have had a significant life event. It also pays for our refreshments at meetings and any expenses our speakers incur. Thank you

Jennifer Armeson

Reflecting Faith: Commissioner Churches

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers the stones and mortar...

When you look carefully at churches in towns, you may notice there are many similarities in their designs.

That's because Parliament in 1818 and later in 1824 brought about an Act to enable new churches to be built particularly in towns where the population had grown exponentially due to the industrial revolution and general movement away from the countryside and into town-based work and homes.

These are known as Commissioners, Waterloo or even Million Act churches. The body overseeing the work was the Church Building Commission; the Act followed the end of the Battle of Waterloo and guess how much money was voted to be used by the first Act? The second amount in 1824 was only half a million. All the money was to be used for the Church of England as the 'established' church in Great Britain.

In some cases the Commissioners provided the full cost of the new church; in other cases they provided a partial grant and the balance was raised locally. In total 612 new churches were provided.

One can imagine the significance in those days for country folk to find a local church when they moved away from everything they had known. Not only would it have been spiritually uplifting but they would have been social hubs where connections and friendships were made as well as points of support and practical help; especially for those away from their extended families.

This month:

Have a look at your own church and consider what it stands for in your community. What is it that those attending most seek and appreciate? Perhaps ask someone who does not regularly attend church services what they think.

Antoni Gaudi

"Anything created by human beings is already in the great book of nature."

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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 the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

The Rectory St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever you do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be nothing of the sort. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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Thought for the Month

Question #17: If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

NOTHING.

As we approach the season of Petertide Ordinations in the Church, I was reminded of my own discernment journey to the priesthood; several years ago now, I attended a Bishop's Advisory Panel (BAP) retreat, after which the Church would decide whether or not to recommend me for training. Many of you already know that it was a relatively long road to this moment for me, and, upon arrival, our first task was to complete a simple questionnaire – the image above is the only question I still remember – and I can still remember leaving that room thinking, 'well done, Sam, you've been here ten minutes, and you've *already* blown it!' I could imagine the panel of advisors reading this abrupt answer and becoming the King Lear to my Cordelia; 'Nothing?! Nothing can come of nothing, speak again.' Rightly concerned that this gave the initial impression that I thought myself to be the very picture of perfection, I was given an opportunity to elaborate on my answer at a later point in the retreat. I explained that my response to this particular question had been slightly triggering and that I had regretted my lack of clarity; graciously, I was invited to say more:

At an earlier point during my discernment process, I had been strongly advised (it would not be kind or fair to identify this person) to try to 'bury' my life's experiences and imperfections, in favour of presenting a shiny and infallible version of myself. Fortunately, as I wrestled with this, I was taught by my *Spiritual Friend*, that we are not supposed to 'bury' our flaws, but 'display them proudly!' I was helped to realise and understand that our experiences – *including* overcoming adversity, suffering hardships, and navigating missteps – make us stronger, and enable us to help (and minister to) others more effectively. My friend had humorously concluded by saying, 'I think the world has had enough of *perfect* leaders.'

Of course, I recognise that I had not understood the true purpose, or intention, of the original question; but I think the point of my given answer is still important and true. I am less interested in worrying about that which I might wish I was *not*, but rather, I am always hoping to discover more of the person God has made me to become. I give thanks that I know my need of God, and that my sufferings have equipped me to help others in Jesus' name.

You might feel like broken pottery sometimes – with the appearance of *modern art* – more superglue than clay – but there is beauty and uniqueness and strength to be found here. I thank God that they see the beauty in our stories – and are made strong in our weakness.

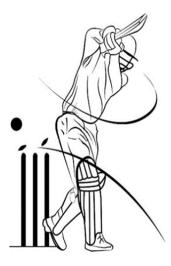
'We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.' 2 Corinthians $6:10_b$ (NLT)

'You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' Psalm $139:13_b-14_a$ (NRSVUE)

'So, I'm delighted when I'm weak, insulted, in difficulties, persecuted and facing disasters, for the Messiah's sake.
When I'm weak, you see, then I am strong.' 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NTFE)

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The whole club returned to winning ways on 8th June with the 1st XI battling for a win away at Wakefield, the 2nd XI achieving a fine home win against Wakefield 2nd XI and the 3rd XI also achieving a fine win against Thorpe Hesley and High Green 2nd XI played at Green Moor. Cricket on 15th June was affected by heavy rain showers. The 1st XI faced Treeton at home and Treeton managed 156 after 33 overs when the rain affected innings stopped for tea. Whitley were set a target of 182 to win with 30 overs, allocated by the DLS rain-affected match system. In an exciting game, Whitley achieved the 182 in the final over with 4 balls left with Andrew Pickering scoring 46 and Harry Wood 48. The following weekend, the match at Elsecar resulted in Whitley chasing 169 and they were all out for 153 although gained 6 bonus points as the losing team. The 1st XI are currently placed at 4th in the ECB Premier Division.

Sunday 23rd June brought the delayed T20 competition at home with Whitley, Elsecar and Tickhill playing to go through to the next round. On a glorious day with around 200 spectators, Whitley won the first game against Elsecar, Tickhill lost to Elsecar but in the final game, Tickhill managed a better run rate to go through to the next round. There have been some fine performances by players in all these games but it is worth mentioning the contribution our overseas guest Harry Wood has made, especially to the bowling performance of the 1st XI. To match this, his brother Jack entertained the crowd singing with his guitar in the evening on Sunday 23rd June.

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

29 th June	1 st XI	V	Shiregreen 1 st XI
6 th July	2 nd XI	V	Oughtibridge 1 st XI
13 th July	2 nd XI	V	Rotherham Town 1 st XI
Sun 14 th July	3 rd XI	V	Caribbean 2 nd XI
20 th July	1 st XI	V	Appleby Frodingham 1 st XI
27 th July	2 nd XI	V	Warmsworth 1 st XI
3 rd August	1 st XI	V	Doncaster 1 st 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 July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 14th July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 21st July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 28th July	Nineth Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 4th August	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	Green



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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 2nd June

Niyah Dion Thompson Monroe Nevaeh Brianne Thompson

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

Marriages

Friday 7th June Saturday 22nd June

Craig Barnes & Sophie Browne Paul Cropper & Lauren Hodkin

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

Funerals

Thursday 20th June Monday 24th June Neville Charles Plamer (89) Peter Higginbottom (86)

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

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 & 2 Samuel Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series which will run for the next two years.

1 & 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which focuses on Samuel, Saul and David, around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart: 'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' (1 Samuel 16:7). The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith, however, 'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.' (Eugene Peterson).

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.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian…I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

How did you spell that?

A friend who wished to check some point on aeronautics asked in his library for books on Metropolitan Vickers. He was handed a copy of Crockford's Clerical Directory. - *The Times Diary 7 January 1987*



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At **Park View Residential Care Home,** we take pride in enriching the lives of our residents and those joining us for respite care breaks.

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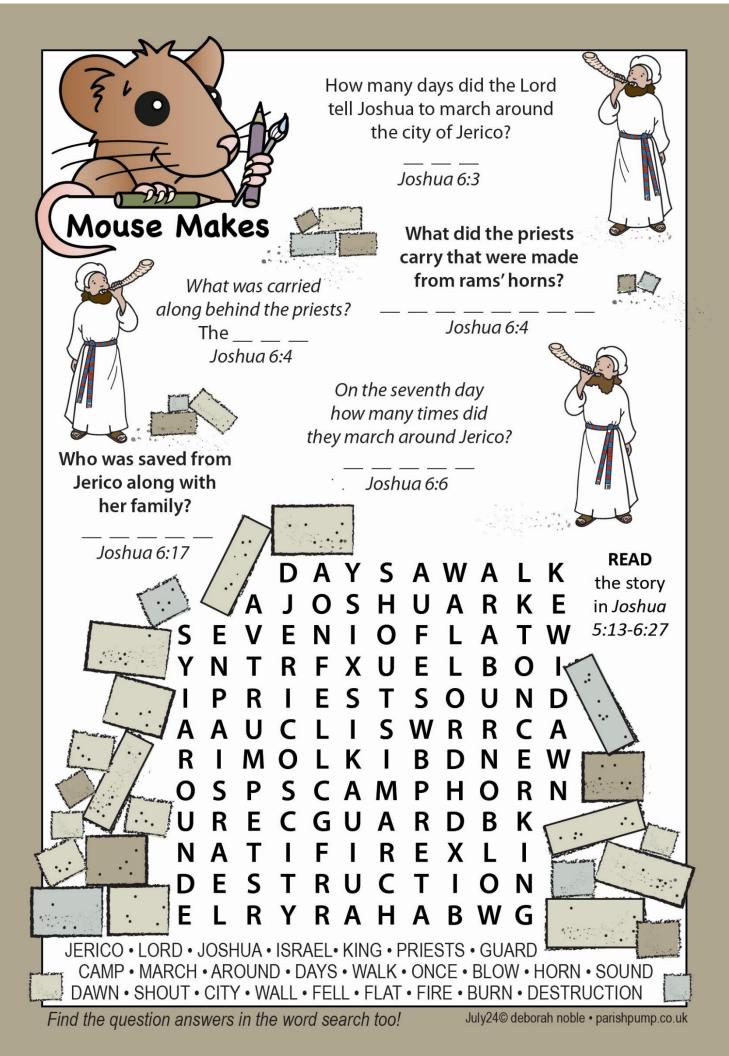
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Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

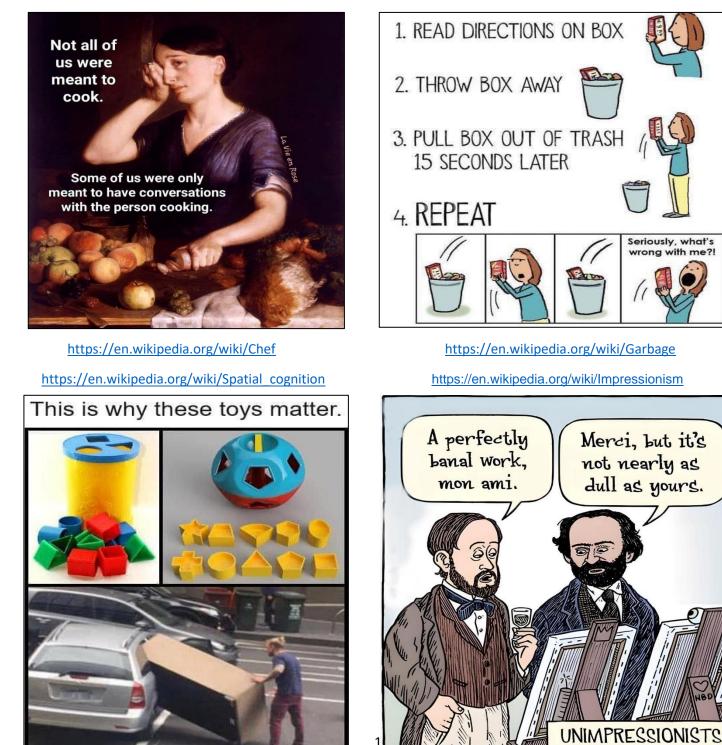
Held annually in Sonkajärvi, Finland, since 1992 The Wife Carrying World Championships has a prize of the wife's weight in beer.

I don't know who needs to read this but throw away the box your phone came in. You don't need it. You never will need it.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation...

It's not grey hair that reveals my age. It's my use of complete sentences and punctuation when I text.

When older friends say, "Enjoy them while they are young." They are talking about your knees and hips, not your kids.



Prayer for the Month

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

'The New Zealand, Anglican, Lord's Prayer', *The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* © the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

It is always a huge moment of triumph and wonder, when our ancient prayers and scriptures are successfully translated for, and made available in, different languages and cultures. It is some small wonder then, that the form we continue to use most commonly for the Lord's Prayer – the prayer that Jesus taught us (and so arguably one of the most important one's we have) – is based on the King James version (first published in the early-seventeenth century). I don't mean any disrespect to our historic, inherited versions of scripture and liturgical traditions (they are indeed very precious), but I have known more than one person who finds the Lord's Prayer confused and alienating, precisely because the archaic form of language being employed is actually hindering understanding – which, considering Jesus' particular concern that we shouldn't *babble* our prayers, but mean what we pray, and take the words to our hearts, is a little troubling if you think about it.

Jesus suggests that, when we pray, our words should be few, humble and honest – it should feel like sitting alone with God in our *living room*: the Lord's Prayer actually builds on an ancient, Aramaic Jewish prayer, called the *Kaddish*, which focuses on blessing, praising and magnifying God. The immediate difference is that Jesus changes the words from a 3rd person appeal, for the benefit of *God's Chosen People*, to a personal, 1st person, prayer to '*Abba'* – meaning '*Daddy*'. The prayer is, first and foremost, a prayer of intimacy with the God who loves us with the unfailing love of a parent, who carries us.

When we draw closer to understanding the language and meaning of the Lord's Prayer, we find that it is a prayer which seeks to restore the personal relationship with God, to which we have always been called; to see more of the fullness of God's kingdom in our lives; to receive all that we need (and not *more*) for this day; to be kept from being overcome by trials and protected from all that is evil in this world – free to seek God's ways in our world. Like most prayers, there is also a transformational element for *us*; it is a prayer that magnifies God – rather than trying to impress others – and hopes for us to become a people who fulfil the Great Commandment; to 'love God, and others as ourselves'.

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate

The Lord of the Rings turns 70 by Tim Lenton

Seventy years ago, on 21st July 1954, the first part of J R R Tolkien's epic fantasy novel The Lord of the Rings was published.

The Fellowship of the Ring, the first volume of a trilogy later published together, was a much more adult-oriented seguel to The Hobbit, published in 1937. It occupied the same ground - the fictional Middle Earth - and followed the quest of a hobbit, Frodo Baggins, to Mount Doom to destroy a powerful ring that symbolised evil in guite a subtle way.

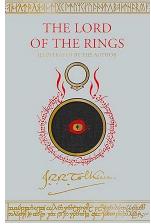
The fantasy world was peopled not only by hobbits but by such creatures as wizards, elves and the malevolent orcs, among others.

Tolkien, who was born in Bloemfontein in 1892 but moved to England with his English parents at the age of three, became a professor of Anglo Saxon at Oxford, where he met and befriended C S Lewis. Tolkien was a convinced Roman Catholic, and it was partly as a result of this friendship that the sceptic Lewis became a Christian. They had a strong common interest in myths and ancient stories, which of course came out in their writing – though in different ways.

Tolkien, who wrote much of The Lord of the Rings during the Second World War, saw his book as fundamentally Christian – Catholic, in fact – but in no way an allegory (an idea he revolted strongly against). He saw myths as "splintered fragments" of a greater story and his own creative work as a kind of worship. The parallels between Christ and Frodo are obvious to many, but not explicit, and the book stands without that interpretation as a masterpiece.

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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

Going to the Country Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the coming General Election....

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ... For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities ...Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. (Romans 13)

When will you go to bed on 4th July?

This month we have a chance to vote for our Members of Parliament, and the leader of the party that can command a majority will form the government. There is a concern that 'voter engagement' is low, meaning that we are not very interested any more. The turnout at the 2019 General Election was 67.3% which was slightly up from 2015. The lowest turnout in a General Election was recorded in 1918 at 57.2%, due to the end of the First World War.

Between 1922 and 1997 turnout remained above 71%. At the 2001 General Election the turnout was 59.4%. For people under the age of forty it is much less.

Should we be concerned? Voting turnout has been fairly stable since 1918 at between 60% and 70%. The numbers that vote in this country are similar to most other countries.

For the first time at a UK general election, those voting at a polling station will need to show photo ID. Voters should check now if they have an accepted form of ID, and if not to apply for free ID, called the Voter Authority Certificate .

To answer my own question, I am not sure when I go to bed on election night. I do not always stay up all night. Election excitement begins to wane in the early hours! Politics seems to be a spectator sport for most of us. We enjoy the shocks and surprises and the live results when the spotlight is a constituency.

The Christian teaching on politics is clear. We should respect those in authority and admire those who seek it. Most people enter politics for good reasons. Perhaps we should remind them they are God's servants.



The Gardening Year – July

Soil if you are growing exclusively in containers, it's not advisable to use garden soil. Although it is free garden soil has limited nutrients, can be contaminated with weed seeds and compacts quickly which means your crops will not thrive in addition using garden soil increases the risk of spreading pest and diseases. You need to get hold of some good quality compost to fill your containers instead. Healthy soil, soil is a living eco system. On a large expanse of land, soil is pretty much self-rejuvenating as long as you don't deplete it .

Worms and Microorganisms keep soil healthy; the addition of compost enriches the soil while leaves and plant matter decay into the earth providing nutrients for future growth in small containers, it is not possible to maintain {living soil} so you will have to use a growing medium that is rich in nutrients and keep feeding it. Remember healthy soil leads to healthy plants.

Sourcing compost, when browsing a garden centre for compost, the choice can be over whelming. There are multipurpose composts, ericaceous, peat free, organic the list is endless! You might be wondering what the difference is whether you need different types or will one sort do, or if it's worth paying extra for organic compost. Good compost supports healthy roots and retains enough nutrients and water to sustain growth, without becoming waterlogged.

Making Your Own if you want to be really self-sufficient and you have some space making your own compost is the best idea .Not only will you save money but you'll be able to put your old leaves, kitchen peelings and dead plants to good use-in effect you'll be (closing the loop) in your own back yard. You can buy small compost bins specially designed for small gardens which work very well if located in a warm spot.

Buying Compost, if you need to buy compost then make sure you purchase it from a reputable source, if you can't get hold of locally managed compost, you'll have to buy it from a garden centre or nursery. You can bulk buy online from stores and have it delivered to your home. Another idea is to get together with friends and order a bulk bag to share.

Vegetables, complete leek planting as soon as possible. Complete the planting of late Brussel sprouts, winter cabbages, and both sprouting and spring Broccoli by the middle of the month.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – July

Vegetables - Artichoke, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Carrots, Chillies, Courgettes, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Kohlrabi, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Mangetout, New Potatoes, Onions, Pak Choi, Peas, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Nettles

Fruit - Apricots, Bilberries, Blueberries, Cherries, Gooseberries, Greengages, Kiwi Fruit, Melons, Peaches, Strawberries

Herbs - Basil, Chervil, Chives, Coriander, Dill, Elderflowers, Oregano, Mint, Nasturtium, Parsley (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leafed), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Tarragon, Thyme

Meat - Lamb, Rabbit, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Cod, Coley, Crab, Dover Sole, Haddock, Halibut, Herring, Langoustine, Mackerel, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Scallops (Queen), Sea Bream, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Squid, Whelks, Whitebait

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Demand for foodbanks

The demand for emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussel Trust's foodbank network has nearly doubled in five years, with a record amount being handed out over the past 12 months alone. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.1 million food parcels were given out; 65 per cent of which went to families with children.

Now the chief executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, has called on political leaders to set out polices that ensure that foodbank use will become obsolete in the UK. She urges: "We must not let foodbanks become the new norm. A supportive social-security system is the bedrock on which we end hunger for good. Building on this, we need much more effective employment and financial support for parents, carers and disabled people. And action to ensure everyone can have the security we all need to access opportunities and have hope for the future."

Families with children and working-age adults are among the most frequent users of foodbanks, but there has been a 27-per cent increase in the number of pensioners needing emergency food in the past year.

Christians Against Poverty calls for more funding for free debt advice

The free UK debt advice charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), has called for more funding for free debt advice, as demand is expected to rise further. CAP's recently published annual report highlights how two years of high living costs have been crumbling the financial security of millions of households, and leading them into debt. It reports that almost three in five of its new clients in debt had income below the poverty line; that 60% of survey respondents had to borrow money to pay household bills; that one in seven skipped meals and two in ten went without heating their home on a daily basis; and that almost three in five borrowed money to pay for food, clothing & other living costs.

CAP's Chief Executive Officer, Stewart McCulloch, says: "Imagine yourself struggling to find enough cash to buy a carton of milk. Shivering in an icy cold house. Your lights are off, curtains closed because you fear people knocking on your door demanding money you don't have. You're stuck in an endless cycle of borrowing to pay off another debt.

"This is what living in poverty looks like and this is the reality for many people living in your local community.

"Many charities and hundreds of local churches, supported by thousands of kind individuals, are going above and beyond to clear the wreckage of debt and poverty.

"Free debt advice is a vital service that millions of people need right now. At Christians Against Poverty, we helped 18% more people go debt free in 2023. We are aiming to scale up and double the amount of clients we help each month, but we can only achieve that with more donations and funding.

"We need you to join us in this fight against UK poverty so that millions can look forward to a full and fulfilled life, rather than just scraping by." If you would like to donate, please go to: <u>capuk.org/urgent</u>

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here



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It is time to eat Watercress

Watercress or yellowcress (Nasturtium officinale) is a species of aquatic flowering plant in the cabbage family, Brassicaceae. The name Nasturtium officinale, Nasturtium is Latin for 'nose twister', a reference to the plant's pungency. A member of the mustard family and related to garden cress. Watercress is a fast-growing semiaquatic plant



Watercress is a rapidly growing perennial plant native to Europe and Asia that thrives in slightly alkaline water. It is one of the oldest known leaf vegetables consumed by humans. Watercress and many of its relatives, such as garden cress, mustard, radish, and wasabi, are noteworthy for their piquant flavours.

The hollow stems of watercress float in water. The leaf structure is pinnately compound. Small, white, and green inflorescences are produced in clusters and are frequently visited by insects, especially hoverflies.

Raw watercress adds a peppery yet smooth edge to dishes and is highly nutritious. Use it in salads in place of the ubiquitous rocket, or try a watercress and Marmite sandwich. It is a classic soup ingredient and when cooked has a milder flavour. It's also great in juices and gives carrot-based drinks a lovely bite.

Watercress has been cultivated since Roman times. It is referred to in Irish poetry from the 12th century and has been grown in southern England since the early 1800s. Watercress was once popular as a tea, freshly made with lemon and sugar, and it has been used throughout history in Europe and Asia as a tonic for various ills.

Look for crisp leaves with a deep green colour. Watercress is very perishable but can be kept in good condition for a couple of days by refrigerating it stems-down in a glass of water, covered with a plastic bag. Wash thoroughly just before use.

Online Recipes:

Watercress and jersey royal soup

https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/recipes/watercress-and-jersey-royalsoup-1705472.html

Salmon and watercress tart https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/salmon_and_watercress_05414

Chargrilled steak with beer, mustard and watercress salad https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/chargrilledribeyeste 91464

Black bean and watercress salad - The Hairy Bikers https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/black_bean_and_51909

The Hairy Bikers

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/chefs/hairy_bikers



Crossword Puzzle

First some crossword humour

Person one: What's a seven-letter word meaning 'easily perceived or understood', starting with 'O'? - **Person two**: Isn't it 'obvious'? - **Person one**: No, that's why I'm asking.

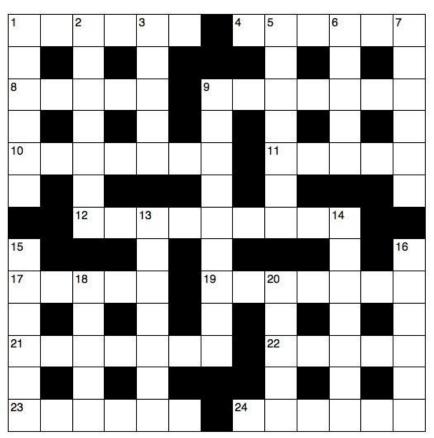
Person one: The person who invented the crossword is buried in our local cemetery. - **Person two**: Oh, where abouts? - **Person one**: Seven across and six down.

Clues Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59)(8)
- **13** The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Clues Down

- **1** The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- **3** Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- **9** Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- **14** Are loud (anag.) (7)
- **16** Printing errors (6)
- **19** 'Take my yoke upon you and from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- **20** Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)



Solution is on Page 23

Remembering the faith of Eric Liddell 100 years ago at the Paris Olympics

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.



When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film Chariots of Fire.

Chapeltown & District Probus Club



Our guest speaker on 12th June was Nick Johnson who returned to present his second talk, "More Tales from the Pressbox". Nick is a Sheffield person who has spent most of his career reporting on football and also snooker on radio and also TV. He is a regular on the SKY football show, was often on Radio Hallam and is also a freelance advisor to Chesterfield Football Club. In an entertaining presentaion, Nick highlighted some of the amusing tales about well-known sports people including what was reported to happen and what really did take place.

The club Annual Dinner will be on Tuesday 20th August at Wortley Hall where there will be entertainment from singer Sally Glennon.

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). The PROBUS club meets every month and retired, semi-retired men and those who have time on their hands are invited to join us – please make contact.

On 17th July, we have a visit to Wortley Hall when the head gardener will show us round including some of the places not usually accessible to the public, followed by afternoon tea. If you would like to join us, please make contact.

In September, we welcome Neil Hanson with his fascinating tales of being landlord of the country's highest pub, the Tan Hill Inn. Guests will be welcome – please make contact with us.

Upcoming meetings on Wednesday at 10.00 in Grenoside Community Centre

(followed by optional lunch at Wortley Hall): -

10th July	Mike Ogden	"Beyond the Blue Horizon"
14th August	Martin Rowley	"Sheffield Gang Wars"
11th September	Neil Hanson	"Inn and Out at the Top"

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

Andrew Robinson





Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for July 2024 - By Daphne Kitching

Father, Thank you for summertime, when thoughts turn to holidays and relaxation.

July is a month of endings for many; the ending of the school or college year and for some a moving on to the next stage of education or work. Often, there is uncertainty or trepidation about the future.

Whatever stage of life we are at, whatever season of the year it is, we can feel uncertain and concerned in a world which seems increasingly secular and confusing.

Remind us Lord, of Your promise to be with us always, every step of every way, when we put our trust in You, through Jesus.

Thank you that in the ups and downs of life, You never change. You are the rock on which we stand securely, eternally. Help us to move forward confidently, trusting in that truth.

Thank you, Lord.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Glory of Creation - By Denzil Walton Men of the Sea - From a prayer by Frank Colquhoun (This poem is most often used as a hymn. It was written Your first disciples, Lord, were men of the sea: to the tune Ewing (Jerusalem the Golden), but it has also Hardy fishermen from the shores of Galilee. been sung to Stand up Stand for Jesus. They are both They knew from experience the perils of the deep... 7.6.7.6.) They also knew Your presence with them in their darkest hours. The glory of creation, throughout the universe, We pray for those who face like hazards today... So wonderful in essence, delightfully diverse. Lord of the sea, be near to guard them in every Antarctica to Asia; the jungles of Brazil, danger... Established by the Father, with loving care and skill. And let them hear Your voice above the tempest, 'It is I, be not afraid" From mountain tops to valleys; in forests and in parks, So bring them to their haven in peace. We watch the playful squirrels; we hear the joyful larks. Wild orchids so unusual; bright parakeets so loud, Rare butterflies so fragile; the tiger standing proud. Give to me - From an ancient Celtic prayer Deep mysteries, of oceans and unknown outer space, Migration paths of swallows, the eagle's nesting place. Spirit who aboundest, give me, The more we gain in knowledge, the less we Father great, profoundest, give me, understand Thou whose praise renowned is, give me, This world so rich and complex, created by God's Jesus Son, thy shield to guard. hand. But crisis looms upon us; the planet's under threat, The global climate's changing, the balance is upset. The melting of the ice caps; diversity declines, **Confidence in God -** A prayer of St Columba Extinction of key species; we're overwhelmed with signs. Alone with none but Thee, my God, I journey on my way. So Father please forgive us for spoiling Planet Earth, What need I fear, when Thou art near Give us a chance to change it; to instigate new birth, O King of night and day? Let's care for Your creation, in details and in whole More safe I am within Thy hand Protect, preserve and cherish; may this be our new Than if a host did round me stand. goal. For nature - From a prayer by Basil Naylor The God of love - From a poem by George Herbert We thank you Lord of all creation, for the wonder of The God of love my Shepherd is, the world in which we live: for the earth and all that And He that doth me feed: springs from it; and for the mystery of life and growth. While He is mine, and I am His,

What can I want or need?

Contact Details for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall Tuesday 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm Leader - Debbie Tel: 0786 047 1793

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall Monday 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson Tel: 0798 344 2742

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall Tuesday 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm Leader - Mrs A. Kendall Tel: 0114 246 8866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall Thursday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Leader - Mrs C Topham Tel: 0114 246 1289

Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre Monday 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm Wednesday 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm Secretary - Emma Addy Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday 10 am to 12 noon Tel: Robert 0114 246 1095

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

Run by the community for the community. Volunteer helpers always needed. Tel: 0114 246 3651 email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com

Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane) Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm 2nd Pack 6:30 pm to 8:0 pm Leader - Mrs A Hancock Tel: 0114 245 2780

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane) Monday 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm Leader - Joanna Steel 0797 263 7908 Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm Shane Porteous shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane) Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm Leader - Bryony Hemming 25thecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's Church Hall at 7:30 pm Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 0782 411 2584 www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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

Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month in Grenoside Community Centre All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow chapeltown.probus@gmail.com We are now face to face see www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk

If you would like your local group advertised, please contact: Mrs P Blackburn 🖀 0114 246 8453

Useful Contacts

<u>Vicar:</u>	E-mail:	Phone:		
Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002		
'Assistant Curate:				
Revd. Sam Ellmore	revsamellmore@outlook.com	0747 9985 199		
Churchwardens:				
Ann Hackett		246 7159		
Jo Hawksworth		246 2852		
Readers:				
Pastoral Workers:				
Church Office				
Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm		245 0106		
Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm				
Wahaita	https://stroom/secolesfield.org.ul/			
Website	https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/			
Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:		
Choir Practice in Church	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church			
Contact: Lynda Pearce		246 3935		
Music Group	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church			
Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746		
Mother's Union in Catty Hall	1.00 pm 1 at Wadparday of the month			
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall Contact: Maureen Lambert	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690		
Ecclesfield Ladies Group	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall			
Contact: Anne Rostron		245 5492		
Bell Ringers	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry			
Contact: Phil Hirst		286 2766		
Gatty Hall Bookings		0780 307 8223		
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