

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine October 2024

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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First Words

For me October means lengthening nights and harvest time!

On **Thursday 3rd October** we have our weekly **mid-week Communion at 9.30am**.

The annual **Diocesan Development Day** is on **Saturday 5th October** at St Thomas Crookes.

On **Sunday 6th October** at the 10am service we have a guest preacher, our good friend Revd Katharine Lonsborough.

We welcome **Wooley Wood Primary School** Year 6 for a Church visit on **Tuesday 8th October at 1pm**.

There is a **wedding rehearsal** in Church on **Wednesday 9th October at 4pm**.

On **Thursday 10th October mid-week Communion is at 9.30am** and there is another **wedding rehearsal** in Church at **5pm**.

Saturday 12th October is a busy day: **Prayer Breakfast at 9am**, **Bereavement Cafe at 10am**, please note the earlier time, this is to make time for the **weddings at 12noon and 2pm**.

Harvest Festival is at **10am on Sunday 13th October** followed by a 'bring and share' lunch at **12noon**.

Baptism Preparation is on **Monday 14th October, 7pm** in Church.

We meet to plan the hymns and services for December (Advent and Christmas) and January on **Wednesday 16th October at 2.30pm**.

Mid-week Communion is on Thursday 17th October at 9.30am.

On **Monday 21st October at 1.30pm** we welcome Ecclesfield Primary School Key-Stage 2 to Church of their **Harvest Service**.

On **Tuesday 22nd October** I will be visiting Ecclesfield Primary **School Key-Stage 1** for their **Harvest service at 1.30pm**.

On **Thursday 24th October and also Thursday 31st October at 9.30am** we have our **weekly mid-week Communion**.

Finally, looking slightly ahead into November, On **Sunday 3rd November** we celebrate **All Saints Sunday at 10am** and we welcome funeral families from the past year for the **Annual Memorial Service at 4pm**.

Tim

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Front Cover – Harvest © Freepik from the web
Back Cover – EPPiC poster - The Uninvited

Saints Alive!

Look out for information about the up-coming Saints Alive course.

It is a Spirit-centred introduction or refresher course on the Christian Faith. The course is practical and experiential, not just ideas and books!

For more information see Tim

Services at St Mary's

We have a variety of services over the month at St Mary's.

Our main service is on Sundays at 10am.

On the first Sunday we have our most formal and traditional service - Sung Communion led by the Organ & Choir.

On the Second Sunday it our most informal service - Prayer and Praise led by the Worship Group.

The Third Sunday (and the Fourth Sunday in a month with five Sundays) we have a service of Communion led by both the choir & organ and the Worship group.

On the last Sunday of the Month we have a simpler, Said Communion with singing led by both the choir and the Worship Group.

On Sunday Evenings a few of us meet at 6.30pm for a very simple service, we usually sing a few hymns, it is a quieter and more reflective service.

We have a Mid-week communion Service at 9.30am every Thursday.

We are planning to launch something very different in the New Year - an Introduction to Meditation and Contemplative Prayer - more details to follow.

British Empire Medal Award

Margaret Myers, a member of St. Mary's church, was awarded a B.E.M (British Empire Medal) in King Charles III 1st New Year's honours list.

Her medal was presented to her on the 7th of August 2024 at Sheffield Town Hall by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and surrounded by family and friends.

Her award was given in recognition for services to the Community of Sheffield, spanning many years and many roles. Some of which involved and covered different aspects of youth work, guiding and hospitality.

Well done, Margaret, We are all very proud of you.



Andrew Jones

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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 Dream of Gerontius’

John Henry Newman was a great Victorian churchman, an inspired Anglican preacher and teacher who became a Roman Catholic in 1845. Newman was also a poet and wrote hymns that have remained perennial favourites – among them, ‘Lead, kindly Light’ and ‘Praise to the Holiest.’

The first hymn was written when, as an Anglican, Newman was ill in Sicily and his servant thought he might die. But he recovered and, anxious to return home, he wrote these words, knowing that God had important work for him to do. The light that he prayed for in Sicily was to shine out, resplendent and glorious, in that later hymn which expresses the vision of the heavenly courts in the longer poem, ‘The Dream of Gerontius.’

Newman wrote the poem in 1865 after the death of a 41-year-old fellow Oratorian, Fr John Joseph Gordon, who had said to him as he lay dying, “I do not say that I do not fear to die: for death must always be a fearful thing. God’s justice is very terrible; but then, in the crucifixion, God’s mercy appears so very great.” ‘The Dream of Gerontius’ is about death and judgement, but it is the judgement of a loving God.

Newman presented Dvorak with a copy of this poem when the composer visited Birmingham, and he was invited to compose a setting for the city’s 1888 Festival. Although Dvorak felt inspired by the words, the timescale was too demanding. The poem was presented to Elgar on his wedding day a year later, again with the suggestion that he set it to music. The words simmered and stirred in Elgar’s imagination to produce one of the great oratorios of all time in 1900, when it was given its first performance in Birmingham.

Elgar inscribed the score ADMG (To the greater glory of God) and wrote on the last page of the manuscript, ‘This is the best of me.’ The light of God’s glory and grace that inspired Newman shines through the music as it shone through Elgar’s own life. His funeral card of 1934 contained words from the poem, and on his own score of ‘The Dream’ he wrote these words of Virgil, ‘Whence doth so dear desire of Light on wretches grow?’

It is now difficult to separate the poem from Elgar’s setting. The composer, like the poet, leads the listener from the prayer of faith, ‘Firmly I believe and truly’ – a prayer sustained by the words of the priest, ‘Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul’ – to the judgement throne where the angels praise God in the heights.

One of the angels then leads the soul away with a beautiful setting of ‘Softly and gently,’ not to the fire of judgement, but to the cleansing, sustaining water of eternal life. The work ends with echoes of that angelic hymn, praising God who is our refuge in every generation.

Newman wrote, “I always sleep better after music.” He compared music to an electric current that passes through the body and then into the mind and heart. And Elgar’s wonderful setting can do exactly that, creating a vision of that new world of eternal glory that Gerontius expresses in the words, ‘*Novissima hora est. . . .* into thy hands, O Lord, into thy hands.’

Mother's Union Meeting

Magic Meals. (Mary's Meals is the official name) Our speaker this month spoke about the work being done in many areas of the world to feed children who are hungry. This might be because their parents have little income or because of famine or war. The founder of this organisation called Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was appalled to find children unable to take advantage of school because they were so hungry.

He decided to do something about this looking at how they could be fed and involving the community. He came up with the concept of a meal a day made up of the cereal they could obtain made into a kind of porridge. This required a kitchen to prepare in and involved the community building this and people to prepare it. This has worked in all the situations they have been working with.

Children now have the energy to work and as their education continues it enables them to begin to think of a future.

In Tigray where war had stopped many being fed the numbers rose from 24,000 to 110,000 thus providing for many more with food. That it costs 10p per meal is a miracle and deserves our support.

Mothers' Union Subscription

The subscription for 2025 has gone up to £30.00. the committee realise this is a lot to pay all in one go, so have decided, if you wish, to pay a little a month, that will be okay.

The full £30.00 needs to have been paid by the end of January, when the money is sent off to Mary Sumner House. All money in an envelope please, with your name on the front.

Thank you. Jennifer Armeson-Treasurer. Mob 07944195906

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Reflecting Faith: Window Glass

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

Last month I wrote about the Arts and Crafts Movement's influence in the decoration of churches in Britain. This is often evidenced in the designs of windows – but why do we have so much coloured glass of all shapes and sizes in church buildings?

Stained glass in churches is similar to wall paintings in that it adds colour as well as traditionally serving the purpose of teaching non-literate people the great events and characters of their religion.

But glass is so much more than that.

The techniques used to create these windows have been refined over the centuries, and their intricate beauty has inspired countless artists and designers.

The way the light shines through the glass creates a unique atmosphere that is often described as ethereal or heavenly. In this way, the use of stained-glass windows helps to create a sacred space that is set apart from the secular world.

The light shining through the glass is shown onto the brickwork or stonework surrounding the glass and depending on the original colours, the intensity of the light, the angle of the sun's rays as well as the height and angle away from the watcher: these can range from vibrantly strong to softly muted.

Hundreds of years ago people saw the changes in light in this way as being very significant. It was thought that the light passing through was transformed or transmuted and because of this it had a healing and revivifying effect on people who placed themselves within its light.

This month

Visit a church on a sunny day and just enjoy the play of light being put on for you. What does it say about God's love for you?

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By



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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 being a school governor

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I was interested to hear that from this academic year, your vicar has asked you to take his place as a school governor. A whole new world of exciting meetings is about to open up to you. Naturally, you will have been told that the governors only meet three times a year. You will probably not have been told that you will also be expected to be on at least two sub-committees, where you will be immediately asked to become secretary, as a way of getting to know the job. Add on training days, parents' evenings, sports days, school socials, end of term services, charity events and accompanying classes on days out and you will begin to realise that your vicar's suggestion was not as innocent as you may have thought.

Remember, too, that all meetings require you sit on chairs designed for five-year-olds. You will then spend countless hours going through a 40-item agenda, trying to look dignified with your knees somewhere round your ears while drawing up school plans as if they were the Normandy landing. Be prepared to receive paperwork measured by the hundredweight; entire rainforests have been obliterated by your education authority sending what they seem to think is vital information; it does, however, make good cat litter.

Most meetings will be so full of acronyms that for the first few years you will have the feeling that conversation is taking place in a language that may bear a passing resemblance to English, but isn't. There is little point in trying to learn what they all mean because before too long, they will all be replaced by another set anyway, which will be equally incomprehensible.

Your computer abilities will be expected to be far beyond what anyone over the age of 30 could ever be expected to achieve; if you sink without trace, ask a seven-year-old, who will soon put you right.

You will also be encouraged to attend training days; I strongly suggest you select all-day events, as at least you will get a lunch out of it. You needn't bother to arrive on time, since the first hour will be spent with everyone introducing themselves and you can leave early, as the final hour will go on filling in evaluation forms.

Just keep reminding yourself that your term of office is a mere five years; you may even get remission for good behaviour.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Thought for the Month

Why bother going to Church? What good will it do me? You might have asked yourself this question - whether you are a regular Church-goer or not.

The first, and most important reason for going to Church is that the Christian faith is true. I don't mean that in some sort of fundamentalist way. What I mean is that what God has revealed of Himself in Jesus is the truth; as Archbishop Michael Ramsey so memorably put it, 'God is Christlike.' Our worship is our response to the God who meets us in Jesus.

There are other reasons for going to Church. Some go because Church is a community where they are known and valued. Our doors are open to all people; all are welcome to take their part in this community. It is a place where all can be at home and be themselves.

For me one of the most important reasons for being part of St Mary's is that it is a place of peace and refreshment; and peace and refreshment are something that we could all do with at the moment! For almost everyone I know, life at the moment is hard. Few of us feel optimistic or hopeful when we look at the future.

Taking part in Church life and worship is a time of peace and refreshment, not so that we can escape from life in the 'real world' into some sort of fantasy. Rather we find strength to face those challenges; and we know that we do not face them alone, that the God who meets us in Jesus is with us in all things and He will never abandon us.

I suppose what I am saying is that when we meet together in Church, when we lift our voices in prayer and worship, when we open our hearts and cry out to God, God meets us in that time and place.

Church is not just for so-called 'religious' people; it is certainly not only for those who have their lives sorted. It is for all people, for me and for you.

At St Mary's we have a variety of types of service at different times and we plan to add to them. St Mary's is your Church. You are and will always be welcome. If it is a while since you have been along to Church why not try it out?

God bless,

Tim.

Does God care about your work?

A new film series, 'Does God Care About My Work?' has been launched by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. It is designed to 'help Christians discover why their work matters to God, and how they can make a difference with Him through their regular tasks.' More details at: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/does-god-care-about-my-work/>

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The cricket season ended on 14th September after quite a strange and difficult season for the 1st X1. The club had a slow start with cancellations due to the extremely wet pitches but towards the end of June, the 1st X1 were in 2nd position in the Premier League. July was a very difficult month with a match cancelled and 3 defeats which seemed to unsettle the team.

August saw a fine home win against Doncaster but a home defeat to Cawthorne followed by success at Collegiate and a further slim defeat against visitors Wakefield after an entertaining match. However, two days later so a further loss on August Bank Holiday Monday at home to 2024 Champions, Cleethorpes. Subsequent defeats at home to Elsecar and away to Treeton and Shiregreen have left the team in 10th position in the Premier League. Just one or two wins could have taken us above mid-table but the team ends in a disappointing position just above

relegated Treeton and Elsecar. In contrast, both the 2nd XI and 3rd X1 had good seasons, both quite close to promotion and both finishing in position 4 in Division 1 and 6 respectively with the 3rd XI just 4 points off promotion.

2025 will see the club celebrating its 100th anniversary of moving to Ecclesfield from its original location on Whitley Lane, Grenoside. There will be a range of special events as well as some ground improvements including a new scoreboard – watch out for further information.

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592 or me on 07793 595238

Andrew Robinson

Learn to 'wait well' for things

'My future is in Your hands...'

In her helpful book, *When, God, When?* Joyce Meyer writes: "God has taught me to keep living the life I now have, while I am waiting for the things that are in my heart to come to pass. We can become so intent on trying to birth the next things that we neither enjoy nor take care of the things at hand. I had a vision from God ten years before I began to see it fulfilled. During those years, I believe I missed a lot of joy trying to give it birth outside of God's timing."

Learn to enjoy where you are, while you're waiting to get to where you want to be. After all, all your life you will spend more time waiting than you will receiving. And when you receive what you're waiting for now – you'll begin waiting for something else. That's life! If we don't learn to 'wait well', we'll live with endless frustration.

Waiting well is what will deliver our dream. Listen: "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). "Due season" is when God knows we're ready, not when we think we are. He has set appointments to accomplish certain things in our life, so we might as well settle down and wait patiently, because that's when it will happen – and not before.

God knows what you need, He knows when you need it and He knows how to get it to you. All He asks you to do is trust Him.



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What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Mark

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

Mark is the second of the synoptic gospels, along with Matthew and Luke. Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD 64-7).

Mark unveils Jesus' public ministry with the words: *'the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (1:1). The gospel provides a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, concentrating on what Jesus did rather than what He said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word *'immediately'* which is characteristic of his gospel.

For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, *'Who do people say I am?'* (8:27), to which Peter replies, *'You are the Christ'*. This is evident in Jesus' role as teacher, the call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies the last third of the gospel.

A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is: *'Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* (10:44,45). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus gave His life on the cross, that we might know and share his love.

Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus: the one who reveals the truth of God to us, that we might live in reality, not ignorance!

Have you been stressed at work?

Take it seriously. If it has gone on for a while, it may even be well worth paying your doctor a visit.

The reason is that a recent study has found that on-going work-related stress can actually double your risk of a potentially deadly irregular heartbeat.

Researchers discovered that having 'job strain' along with a 'perceived lack of reward' are associated with a much greater chance of developing atrial fibrillation. Their findings are published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common form of arrhythmia, or abnormal heart rhythm. It can lead to a stroke, heart failure or other cardiovascular complications. An estimated 1.4 million people in the UK suffer from the condition, and it can affect adults of any age.

One professor, from Laval University in Quebec, Canada, said that his team had studied the impact of job strain, looking at factors like high job demands, a heavy workload, tight deadlines, low control over work, little say in decision-making and how tasks are executed.

The study also considered the effort-reward imbalance which occurs when employees invest significant effort into their work, but then perceive the rewards they get in return – such as salary, recognition or job security – as insufficient or unequal to their performance.

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.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

In this context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs or internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the right way. The master-genes that control the whole process are called homeobox, or Hox genes for short.

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes are organised into several clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development *and* the order in which they appear on the body.

As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

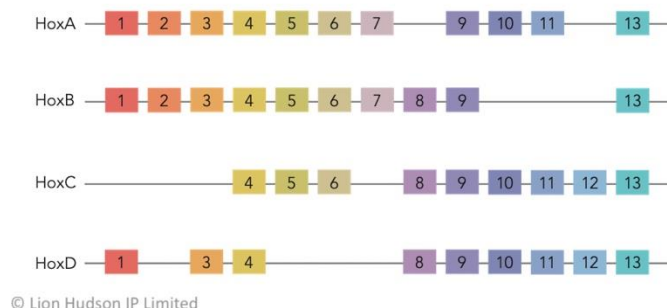
Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”* The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*



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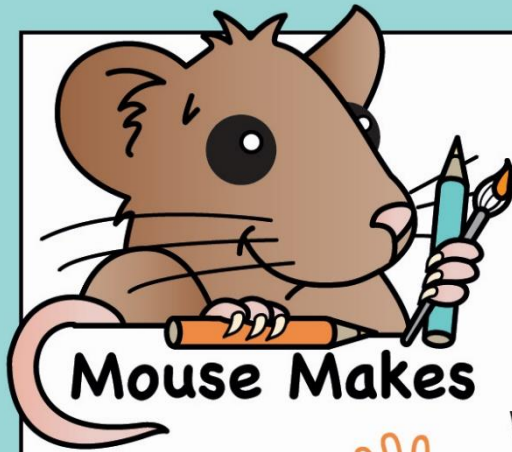
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"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
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Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



"Always be full of **joy**.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be **thankful**."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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VILLAGE CAROLS

The Festival of Village Carols

Saturday 7 December

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Tickets available 1st October

The wonderful tradition of local carols sung in villages around Sheffield and beyond is celebrated by this biennial festival.

Local carols – varying from village to village – used to be widespread before the Victorians introduced the ‘standard’ carols with which we are now more familiar. The local carols were forgotten in most areas of the country but around here they survived, often in pubs and in local bands.

Only a very few other places still have such a tradition and this year we are thrilled to have guest spots from a carolling group from Redruth in Cornwall as well as singers from the Travellers’ Rest in Oughtibridge.

There is a ‘grand sing’ in the evening which is usually sold out within days – so please act now to avoid disappointment .

If you wish to learn some more carols you are also welcome to come for the workshops in the morning and afternoon.

This is a most enjoyable occasion.

Book your tickets from Tuesday 1st October at:

www.villagecarols.org.uk

Prayer for the Month

Come, Holy Spirit!

A very simple prayer - it can be memorised in a few seconds. I always pray this prayer at the start of every act of worship that I lead. Sometimes I pray it aloud after a time of silence, sometimes I pray it silently.

It is a prayer of surrender. It is a humble prayer. It acknowledges our utter dependence on God. We cannot even pray without the grace of the Holy Spirit praying in us and through us.

Prayer, like everything else, is both our own work and it is the work of God who is with us and in us and who is at work in the world through us.

“Come, Holy Spirit!” is not only a prayer of humility, it is also a prayer of expectation. When we pray it we recall Jesus’ promise:

“If you... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)

We can pray this prayer before we offer worship; we can pray this prayer before we do any deed or action. We ask and we trust that God hears and that God is faithful, always keeping His word. So when we have prayed “Come, Holy Spirit!” we can know that God who has heard and who is faithful answers our prayer.

Although I can and do pray this prayer in many different circumstances, it is particularly appropriate before joining in or leading worship. Because, at the heart of worship, is meeting with God. God meets us in and through the others who worship with us; God meets us in and through the prayers and the hymns that we offer; God meets us in the Word; God meets us in the sacrament.

When we pray this prayer before an act of worship we are making ourselves ready to receive all that God wants to give and to do. We give ourselves over to God, acknowledging that God is in control and we are not. We do not determine the outcome of our prayer or our worship or our action. All is in God’s hands.

Amen.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 15th September

James Andrew Thackeray

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

Marriages

Friday 20th September

William Joshua Cromwell & Samantha Claire Wareham

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

Funerals

Monday 30th September

Sharon Sutton

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

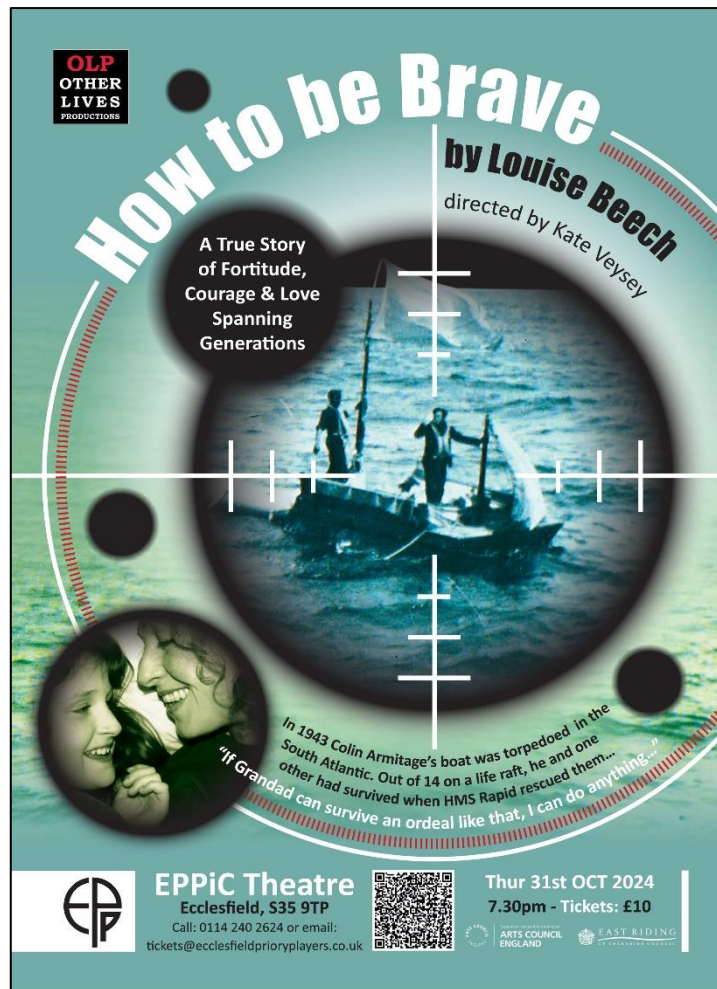


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between 10am and 12 noon
on Saturday
16th November 2024

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by Louise Beech
directed by Kate Veysey

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of Fortitude,
Courage & Love
Spanning
Generations


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"If Grandad can survive an ordeal like that, I can do anything..."

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tickets@ecclesfieldpriorityplayers.co.uk

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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

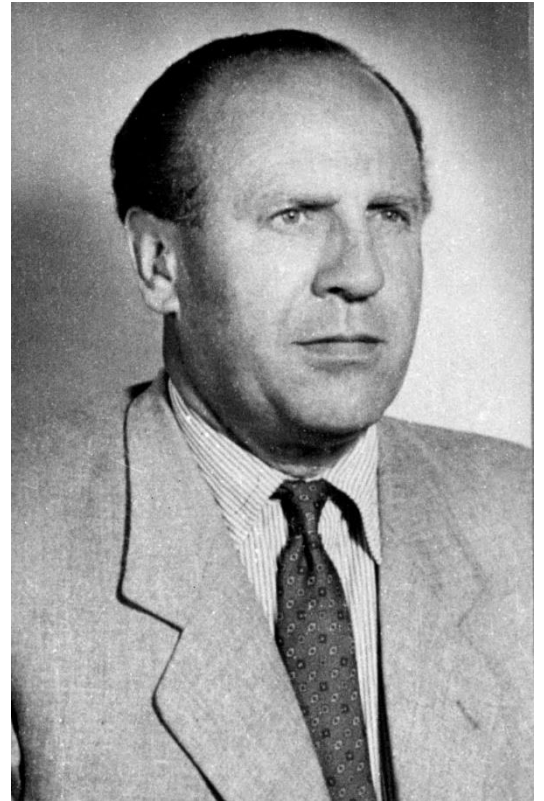
Oskar Schindler

The German businessman who befriended the Jews

Fifty years ago, on 9th October 1974, Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungarian-born German businessman, died. He saved more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film Schindler's List.

At the time of his death, in Hildesheim, Germany, he was almost unknown and very poor. After the war he and his wife Emilie (both now recognised by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations) had emigrated to Argentina, where they separated in 1957 and Oskar returned to Germany alone. Money was raised to pay for his burial in Israel. Emilie died in Germany in 2001, having spent most of her later life in Argentina.

Oskar Schindler had been an opportunistic German industrialist and a 'convenient' member of the Nazi Party who set himself up in an enamel factory in occupied Krakow, Poland, as part of a 'Germanisation' programme in 1939. The factory had previously been Jewish-owned.



Schindler employed Jews from a nearby concentration camp and used bribes and his own diplomatic skills to protect his workers from the brutality of life in the camp and ensure they were not deported. He added an armaments division and convinced the SS that his employees were essential to the war effort – although very little was produced.

The risks he took, which included dubious business deals, brought suspicion of giving unauthorised aid to Jews and of corruption: he was arrested three times but not charged.

His factory was relocated to Brännlitz, near his hometown, at his request and reopened there purely as an armaments factory – and, thanks to Schindler's persuasive powers, a sub-camp of a nearby concentration camp. An assistant compiled a list of almost 1,200 Jewish workers needed to move from Krakow to work in the new factory – 'Schindler's list' – which enabled their survival. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oskar_Schindler

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The Gardening Year – September

Soil-less Compost is made from peat, or peat substitutes such as coir or bark to which nutrients and fine sand are added, advantages and disadvantages include:

It is lightweight, good for hanging baskets and window boxes, dries out quickly and needs more vigilant watering, once it dries out, soil-less compost is difficult to rehydrate peat-based compost.

One of the most popular types of compost is sourced from peat, that it is because it is excellent at holding water and retaining nutrients. Unfortunately, peat land landscapes are being irrevocably damaged to commercial peat extraction. The extent of damage is so great that the UK government has set a target for 90% of the total horticultural market to be peat free.

Peatlands are important aspect of the environment. Not only are they a natural habitat for many plants and animals but they store carbon, as long as it remains wet and un-decomposed, peat stores significant quantities of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide Co₂. Once drained, ploughed or extracted for use in gardens, the process of oxidation speeds up, releasing carbon in the form of Co₂ into the atmosphere exacerbating the impact of climate change, making a difference. Over two thirds of all peat used in British horticulture is used by the armature gardening market, you can play a key role in reducing peat usage. With improved alternatives it's not difficult to find another suitable growing medium. With peat free compost the peat content is replaced by composted barks, coir or other products and these products are readily available.

Ericaceous Compost - ericaceous compost is especially for plants that love acid and hate alkaline soils, it has more peat than other types and no lime, any added fertilisers are acidic too. Which compost you use depends on what you want to grow, there are advantages and disadvantages to the different types of compost available. Soil based compost is heavy and provides a good base for pots in an exposed site, soil-based compost holds nutrients well. Soil-less composts are ideal for hanging baskets and window boxes, peat free and organic compost are better for the environment.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – October

Vegetables - Artichoke, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broccoli, Butternut Squash, Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Horseradish, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Mangetout, Marrow, Onions, Pak Choi, Peppers, Potatoes (Maincrop), Pumpkin, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Shallots, Spring Onions, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Mushrooms

Fruit - Apples, Bilberries, Blackberries, Damsons, Elderberries, Figs, Grapes, Medlar, Melons, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, Redcurrants

Herbs - Chestnuts, Chives, Cob Nuts, Coriander, Oregano, Mint, Parsley (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leafed), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Thyme

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

Fish - Clams, Cod, Coley, Crab, Dab, Dover Sole, Grey Mullet, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Herring, Lemon Sole, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, **Oysters**, Pilchard, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Red Mullet, Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Shrimp, Squid, Turbot, Whelks, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

What do you mean CHANGE??? That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make a bunch of changes all of a sudden, Vicar, you've got another think coming!

Right resting place

The new vicar was a bit of an efficiency expert, whose obsession was to move around the hymnbooks, the notice-sheets, the magazines, the guides, and most of the other portable things in his church, in search of the perfect place. From porch to display stand to table to vestry to side chapel – round and round various things went, week by week.

After several months, a visitor approached a harassed churchwarden before church one morning, and asked if he could tell her where the copies of the church guides were kept. "No, I'm sorry," he said wearily. "But if you just stand here a while, I'm sure you'll see them go by!"

Too eloquent?

Fresh out of seminary, a young pastor found an associate position at a prestigious church. One Sunday early on, he was given the opportunity to preach. He prepared diligently - perhaps a bit too excited to use all the learning he'd acquired - and worked hard to make his words eloquent and smooth.

Shaking hands at the end of the service, he was approached by one of the older ladies who was known and respected in both the church and community. "Sir," she said with a smile, "your sermon was like the peace of God!"

The young preacher's grin widened and his chest puffed a bit ... until she continued on, "it surpassed ALL understanding!"

Laodicean hymns

The Laodicean Church was described in the Bible as being lukewarm. So here is a list of some of the hymns they might sing:

Teach Me, Lord, Thy Easy Way
We Are Milling Around in the Light of God

When Peace, like a Trickle
When the Saints Go Sneaking In

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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

ERIC EYRE

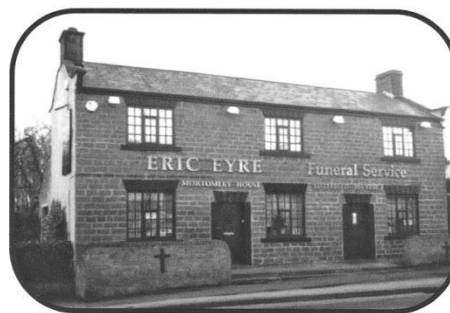
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It is time to eat Oysters

Shells found on archaeological sites indicate that people were eating oysters 6,000 years ago. For much of recorded history they have been regarded a simple form of sustenance, punctuated by occasional periods in which they reached the status of delicacy. In Britain they shifted from stomach-filler to luxury food with the arrival of the Romans, largely disappeared from the diet after they left, before returning to favour sometime around the eighth century.

By Victorian times, pickled oysters were a common food of the poor in London (and in the American South in the early twentieth century the Po-Boy, a type of sandwich featuring oysters in a baguette, fuelled blue collar workers). The era of cheap oysters came to an end quite abruptly after oyster beds became exhausted due to overfishing and pollution.

Oysters are members of the family Ostreidae and the common European oyster is named *Ostrea edulis*. Oysters are bivalve molluscs found near the bottom of the sea in coastal areas. The upper shell (valve) is flattish and is attached by an elastic ligament hinge to the lower, bowl-shaped shell. Oysters become sexually mature at around three years old and may switch between male and female several times during their life span.

Oysters should be stored at a low temperature and smell briny fresh. The shells should be clean, bright, tightly closed and unbroken. Size, shape and flavour vary considerably. The best from British and Irish waters are considered to be those from Colchester, Whitstable, the Helford and Galway. Natives are pricier and generally thought of as the superior oyster - don't bother using them for cooked dishes. Pacific or rock oysters tend to have a frillier shell and smaller, milder meat.

Storing & Preparing - Unopened (live) oysters can be kept in the fridge, covered in wet kitchen towels, for two or three days - keep a check on them and discard any that open. Do not store in an airtight container, or under fresh water, as this will cause them to die. Shucked oysters can be kept refrigerated in a sealed container for two or three days. They can also be frozen (previously frozen oysters are better for cooking than eating raw). Ask your fish seller to open your oysters, retaining the shells (if required) and liquor. If you really want to shuck your own, hold an oyster (deeper shell down) in a hand protected with a work glove or wrapped tea towel. Insert an oyster knife (or wide, short screwdriver) between the two halves of the shell and gradually prise apart, working your way around to the hinge and saving as much liquor as possible. Discard any oysters that are dry or do not smell fresh. Raw oysters are best with a squeeze of lemon and a pint of Guinness. A drop of Tabasco sauce can be added if desired. Cooking oysters can temper the salty tang and intensify the creaminess of the flavour. Grilling or poaching produce great results in many recipes.

Nutrition - Oysters are high in protein and low in fat. They are rich in zinc and contain many other minerals such as calcium, iron, copper, iodine, magnesium and selenium.

Recipes

Oyster Po-Boy

<https://www.serious-eats.com/oyster-po-boys>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/features/oyster-po-boy-1895402.html>

Beef, Oyster and Ale Pie

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/beefoysterandalepie_92453

Oysters for non-oyster lovers

<https://rickstein.com/blog/jacks-hacks-oysters/>

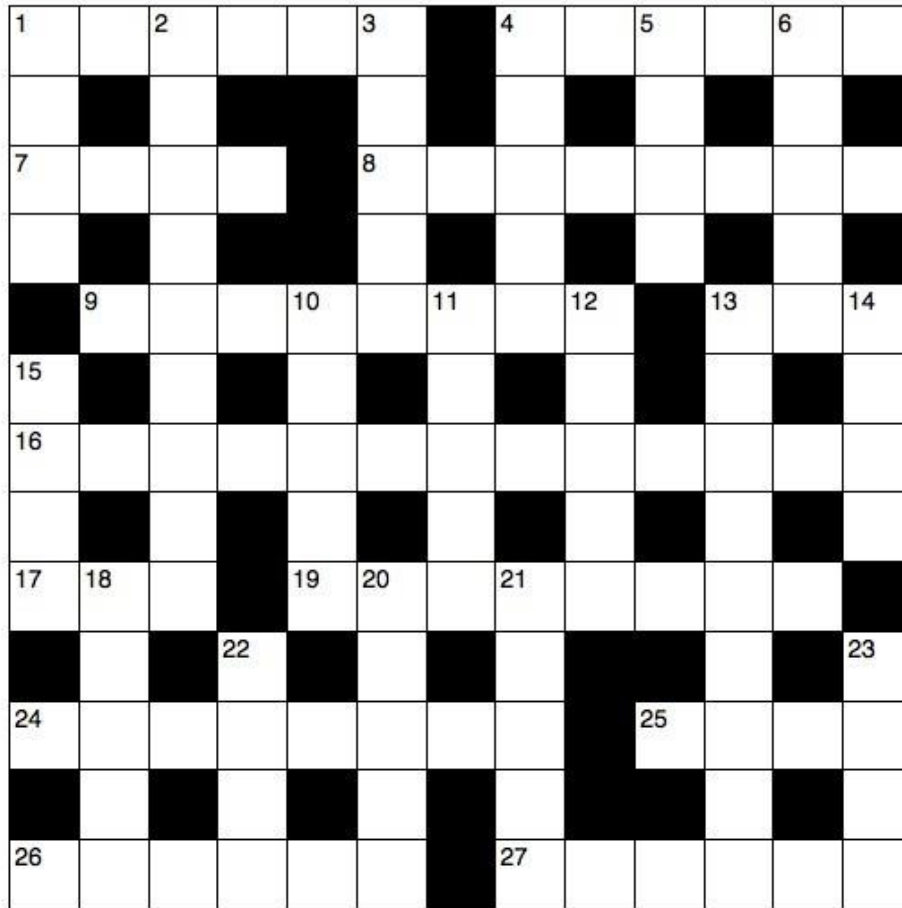
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)



Chapeltown & District Probus Club



At our September meeting we were very pleased to welcome Neil Hanson, formerly landlord and one-time owner at the UK's highest pub, the Tan Hill Inn in Swaledale. He has become a celebrated after-dinner speaker and author and went through the stories of taking over a basic and remote Yorkshire pub with all its strange ways. These included its "always open" tradition such that the police normally phoned to let them know when an "unannounced check" would be taking place. Also, the Everest Glazing advert which made the pub famous and was the company's best ever

advert even though the work was done without the necessary planning permission - a very entertaining speaker. Afterwards, 22 people enjoyed lunch at Wortley Hall.

On 3rd and 4th September, the club had a very successful 2-day visit incorporating the King's Highgrove Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon and the National Motor Museum. 22 people had a very enjoyable trip. In October, we welcome back Paul Adey who will present on the title of Engineering Oddities.

PROBUS Club meets every month in the Community Centre in Grenoside. The club is about providing a relaxing social environment to welcome retired and semi-retired men including those still working but with time on their hands. You can visit a meeting as a guest or choose to become a member. Please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

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

9th October – Paul Adey – "Engineering Oddities"

13th November – Stuart Atkins – "My Life in Music"

11th December – Mike Higginbotham – Waterways and Railways in the Peak District (followed by optional Christmas lunch at Wortley Hall)

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

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

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for October 2024 - By Daphne Kitching

Lord,
As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring.
But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying.

Thank you that You never change. You are always the same, faithful, present and loving. And You tell us in Your Word, not to be anxious about anything, but to bring all things to You in prayer and to trust You. When we do this, You promise us Your Peace – a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.

Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus.
In His name, we pray. **Amen**

Spoken, Written, Living Word

(Ps 119:105, Isaiah 40:8, 55:11, Jn1:1)

God has spoken.
His word created everything
In the beginning.
God saw all
That He had spoken into being,
And it was very good,
His spoken world.

He spoke freedom
To the ones in His image.
But then a stumbling
And a falling
And a need for the path to be lit.
By His power,
Through His people
It is written,
God's word.
To stand for ever,
To accomplish His purpose.

Spoken and written,
Revealing Jesus.
Word-man,
Word alive,
Life itself,
Gift-wrapped by His Spirit
And offered to all
Who will trust and receive
The rescue package,
And live the Word
In the world
Until He comes.

By Daphne Kitching

What colour is that?

Sweet Embrace and Tranquil Dawn
Golden Jasmine, Copper Blush
Wild Mushroom and Grey Steel
(How does all this make you feel?)

Snowy Scene of Mineral Haze
Sapphire Salute of Clouded Pearl
The Jewels of Night surround my heart –
I'm only reading a colour chart!

(I know there's an advert lampooning this trend, but it's absolutely true!)

By Nigel Beeton

He is Always There

It is funny that when we're in trouble
We immediately kneel down and pray,
And expect that the good Lord in heaven
Will all of our fears allay.

It's amazing that when we're in crisis
We turn to the Lord straight away,
But we barely spare Him a moment
When everything's going our way.

We seem to seek God when it suits us
And we fail to keep in touch each day,
Yet regardless how badly we treat Him
His love means He's not far away.

So perhaps we should stop for a moment
And give thanks to the Lord in a prayer,
For no matter how neglectful of Him we may be
For us, He will always be there.

By Colin Hammacott

Contact Details for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Thursday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm
Contact - Girl Guiding Website / To
Register Interest

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)
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Contact 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@yicspl.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



<u>Vicar:</u>	E-mail:	Phone:
Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
Church Office		
Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm		
Website	https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/	
Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:
Choir Practice in Church	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	
Contact: Lynda Pearce		208 3500
Music Group	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	
Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	
Contact: Maureen Lambert		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
For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar		
Magazine e-mail:	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	

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

Date	Day	Colour
Sunday 6th October	19th Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 13th October	20th Sunday after Trinity	Green
Saturday 20th October	21st Sunday after Trinity	Green
Sunday 27th October	22nd Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday	Green
Sunday 3 rd November	4th Sunday before Advent	Green



ECCLESFIELD PRIORY PLAYERS PRESENT



The Uninvited

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from the novel by Dorothy Macardle

Produced by Angela Platts

By arrangement with Musical Theatre International for Josef Weinberger Ltd

Tuesday 15th - Saturday 19th Oct 2024

Curtain at 7.30pm

Tickets £11.00 Concessions (65+) £10.00 (Tues & Weds only)

**EPPiC Theatre, Well Lane, High Street,
Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9TP**



Email: tickets@ecclesfieldprioryplayers.co.uk

Ticket orderline: 0788 111 2674



Ecclesfield Priory Players Productions

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