

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine April

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

April is a busy month this year; we celebrate Holy Week and we hold our Church Annual General Meeting. There are also lots of other things happening at Mary's this month!

Every **Thursday at 9.30am** we have a short service of **Holy Communion**.

Sunday 6th April, 12 noon, Baptisms.

On **Monday 7th April at 3.30pm** there is the **Lent Course session 3**; and at **7pm Baptism Preparation** is held in Church.

On **Tuesday 8th April at 2pm** we hold a **Memorial Service** in Church.

On **Wednesday 9th April at 2pm** we meet to plan services and choose hymns for May and June.

On **Saturday 12th April Prayer Breakfast is at 9am**, followed by **Bereavement Cafe at 10.30am**.

Palm Sunday falls on Sunday **13th April**, we begin Holy Week by remembering Jesu's entry into Jerusalem in our 10am Service.

On **Monday 14th April at 10.30am** we have a **funeral** in Church and at **7pm in the Cathedral there is the Chrism Service**.

On **Tuesday 15th April at 9am** there is an **Easter Service** at **Ecclesfield Primary School** for Foundation Stage and Key stage 1. At **4pm Evening Prayer in St Mary's**.

On **Wednesday 16th April** we have a **funeral** in Church at 10am.

Maundy Thursday, 17th April 9.30 am Mid-week Communion; 2.15pm Easter Service at **Ecclesfield Primary School** for Key Stage 2. and at **7pm** we celebrate **Jesus Last Supper**, followed by **Gethsemane Meditation** in the Chancel.

Good Friday 18th April, 10am Worship for Good Friday; 12 noon to 3pm The Three Hours at the Cross.

Easter Day, Sunday 20th April, 10am Easter Communion, 6.30pm Evening Worship.

Sunday 27th April, 10am Eucharist followed at 11.30am by St Mary's Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 29th April 4pm Fabric Committee meeting in Church.

A busy month with something for everyone!

God bless you,

Tim

Front Cover from the web - **Tsougrisma** a traditional game played by Greeks on Orthodox Easter
How to make: <https://thegreekdeli.com/dyed-greek-red-easter-eggs/>

Back Cover – Architectural Illustration © Allan T Adams BA FSA FSAI

Kate Guest

Counselling & Psychotherapy

Counselling is a talking therapy where you can discuss your problems and emotions in a safe, confidential space.

Counselling can help improve your mental health, teach you better ways to handle stress and anxiety, and increase your self-awareness and emotional resilience.

Maybe you are suffering a sudden life crisis such as bereavement, job loss, or lack of direction, or that you feel that life is just getting on top of you, and you need someone to help with your thoughts and feelings.

Areas of counselling I deal with include abuse, anxiety, anger management, bereavement and loss, career support, work related stress, depression, low confidence and low self-esteem, loneliness, relationship problems, family problems, sex and sexuality and personal issues.

Counselling is not about judging; it is about giving someone the freedom to examine their own issues and so empower them to find their own resolution. Counselling can be a powerful way of examining ourselves and so bring about change within our lives.

I work with individuals and also provide couples and relationship counselling.

Contact me via email or telephone to book an appointment.

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Prayer for the Month

**God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

This prayer is the alternative Collect for Easter Day. It is a newly written prayer for the Church of England, but for me it very succinctly sums up the meaning and importance of Easter and of Christ's resurrection.

Easter is hope. Hope that breaks into despair; it is hope that comes not from ourselves but from beyond us. It is hope that arises when the worst thing imaginable has already happened. For this reason it is something new and unexpected.

In Jesus who is God with us in our flesh and bones, the eternal God has taken to Himself the pain and the defeat and the brokenness of the life of His creation, and in doing so has brought healing and new life.

The sins and failures and disappointments of the past have had their hold on us broken. They no longer define us or our future. New life, life that is not constrained even by death itself is open to us and to all.

As the ancient theologians of the Church put it, in Jesus God became human so that humanity could become divine. What God began at Christmas with the incarnation is fulfilled at Easter with the Cross and the empty tomb.

Because of Easter Christians are a people of hope, a people defined by the resurrection and within it the defeat of death and evil and the promise of eternity.

The way stands open to us. The new life has arrived for us to live, and Jesus our risen saviour invites us to take a step of faith, to entrust ourselves to Him and to begin to follow the way, begin to live the new life. For, as Saint Augustine wrote, 'We are an Easter people, and "Alleluia!" is our song.'

May the risen Christ bless you this Easter.

Tim.



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God in The Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music, based on various saints of the church.

‘In sweet music is such art’: the Basilica of St Mark in Venice

In 828 the relics of St Mark the evangelist were seized from their resting place in Alexandria and brought by two adventurers to Venice. The Basilica of St Mark was built to house these relics, and it was this link between the saint and Venice that determined so much of the city’s history through the Middle Ages.

Venetians would go to war under the banner of the winged lion, the symbol of St Mark, and through the centuries Venice established its independence, its own system of aristocratic government and commercial supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Basilica of St Mark is a vivid testimony to the grandeur of Venice and this amazing history. James Morris has described the church as descended from Byzantium: “a barbaric building, like a great Mongolian pleasure pavilion or a fortress in Turkestan.”

We celebrate St Mark this year on 29th April, (usually 25th) but apart from his Gospel, we know little about the saint’s life. He is mentioned by St Peter and St Paul as ‘son’ and missionary companion. There are many traditions about St Mark: he might be the young man in Gethsemane in chapter 14 of the Gospel, and it is thought that he was martyred in the reign of Trajan. What we do have of St Mark is his Gospel, generally accepted as the earliest of the four to be written. Mark has no infancy narratives and no preparation for the life and ministry of Jesus. Instead, his Gospel begins with the strange, exotic character of St John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness to proclaim the Good News of the Son of God.

In the same way the Basilica of St Mark emerges from the lagoon as strange and as exotic as the Baptist in the Gospel. E V Lucas in ‘A Wanderer in Venice’ invites the visitor to this church to “let the walls and the floor and the pillars and the ceiling do their own magical work.” And the visitor might be lucky enough to hear some of the music of Venetian composers sounding through the basilica. In the 16th century Adrian Willaert wrote music that enhanced the domes and mosaics and ceilings with works for two organs and two choirs sounding out from different parts of the building.

Giovanni Gabrieli, who died in 1612, built upon that tradition. His set of motets, ‘Sacrae Symphoniae’, were written for the special acoustics of this marbled basilica. He developed the antiphonal sounds of Willaert with glorious, harmonic colours, a boldness of modulation, and a variety of dynamics and timbres. We hear all of that in the motet ‘In Ecclesiis,’ which is regarded as his masterpiece. The choirs, brass and organ are divided into five groups that would have sounded out around the basilica: ‘In churches bless the Lord, in every place bless the Lord, for God is my salvation and my glory. Alleluia.’

As we celebrate St Mark on his feast day, we can think of these threefold proclamations of his Good News: his Gospel, which, in its earthy realism, calls the disciple to follow Jesus wherever He goes; this Basilica that calls us to explore its mystery and marvels; and the music of Gabrieli that calls us to echo God’s praises in our own lives.

<https://youtu.be/va-b15PwkIE?s>

Mothers' Union

Our programme didn't get off to a very good start with the snow and ice so the January meeting was cancelled. Our February meeting had two parts because we needed our Annual Meeting which our new Chaplain had agreed to chair. Like many organisations we are finding it difficult to get people to take on the official jobs needed to make the meetings go smoothly. We still need two committee members.

The second half was a talk on Lent by Father Richard, many of his illustrations were from some of his favourite poems which fitted in with the themes of Lent and Spring. We were encouraged to think of positive ways we could follow in our Lord's footsteps and look forward to Easter.

This month's meeting was a talk by Graham Bostock CEO of Emmaus. This organisation began in France and there are now 30 homes and workshops in England. The one in Sheffield was set up over 10 years ago when it was realised unless homeless people had somewhere to sleep and something to do, they had little chance of changing their lives. An old cutlery works near the canal was decided upon but it needed a great deal of work and money.

Funding was found and soon rooms with en-suite facilities were ready for the first occupants. No drugs and no alcohol abuse are allowed which can be very hard for some people.

A skilled team of helpers are there to help them settle in, learn to live together and work together. The men and women are expected to work within the project for 40 hours per week. There are workshops for producing and making good furniture which has been donated. The shop sells furniture, clothes, toys, bric-a-brac, electricals and books etc., all at reasonable prices. There is also a cafe all open from 10 till 4pm 7 days a week.

Donations of all kinds are welcome and can be collected (0114 2720677)

We were reminded that the hurt many have suffered can take a long time to heal but with the help of staff and other workers people do move on when they feel capable but there is no time limit to their stay.

Norma

**Crossword
Puzzle
Solution is
here**

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Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard

Editor: Canon David Winter considers graveyards – and the Resurrection

Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard

It's a yearly paradox. You've brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you are graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey. But it's Easter Day, and from within the church you can hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you notice a few other things. You're standing among the fresh daffodils and the grass that's suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you pause and reflect on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life!

That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once the home of the great 20th century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be. They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.

The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.

Easter faith in atheist Russia

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

St James the Least of All

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

On why you should never encourage your congregation

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to “beautify” the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Tsougrisma – see front cover image

In Christianity, for the celebration of Eastertide, Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus, from which he was resurrected. Additionally, eggs carry a Trinitarian significance, with the shell, yolk, and albumen being three parts of one egg.

During Lent, the season of repentance that precedes Easter, eggs along with meat, dairy products, and wine are foods that are traditionally abstained from, a practice that continues in Eastern Christianity and among certain Western Christian congregations that undertake the partial fast.

After the forty-day Lenten season concludes and Eastertide begins, eggs may be consumed again, giving rise to various Christian game traditions such as egg tapping, in which the "hard eggshell represented Christ's sealed tomb, and the cracking represented Christ's resurrection."

In Greece the eggs are boiled, coloured and arranged on display until Easter Sunday when the egg striking, known as tsougrisma, begins.

Everyone taps the narrow end first to see which one breaks. The person doing the tapping says "Christos Anesti!" (Christ has risen), and the one being tapped says "Alithos Anesti!" (Indeed, he risen). The taps start from the narrow end and then the wide ends of the shell. The last to crack is the winner.

The tradition is not unique to Greece, and also takes place in India, Croatia, Romania and in Jewish culture.

St. Mary's Ecclesfield Vacancy Church Wardens

We are pleased to announce that we are recruiting church wardens.

If you would like to take a keener role within our church, contributing to the vital spiritual, pastoral and mission work of St. Mary's, please speak with Tim.

We are looking to recruit 4 volunteer church wardens, who besides having important legal duties, will help with the smooth running of the church.

Key activities which will be shared amongst the wardens, include.

- Representing the laity
- Cooperating with and pastorally supporting our parish Clergy
- Welcoming the congregation and ensuring the smooth running of services
- Working collaboratively with the Treasurer and Finance committee, Fabric committee and other groups
- Raising issues, concerns and highlighting good work with the Bishop
- Legal duties such as maintenance of a church inventory, collection supervision, and formal reports to the PCC and APCM meetings
- Supporting safeguarding policies and procedures

To be considered for the role you must be over 21 years of age, baptised and on the parish electoral role, not disqualified by the Charities Commission and be willing to undergo DBS checks.

The election and start date are at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27th April.

For more information please speak to Tim



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An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs

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

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings (*'mishle'*) that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline'* (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20).

Our Work: *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

With Holy Week in mind...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. - *James A Francis*

He suffered not as God, but He who suffered was God. *John Owen*

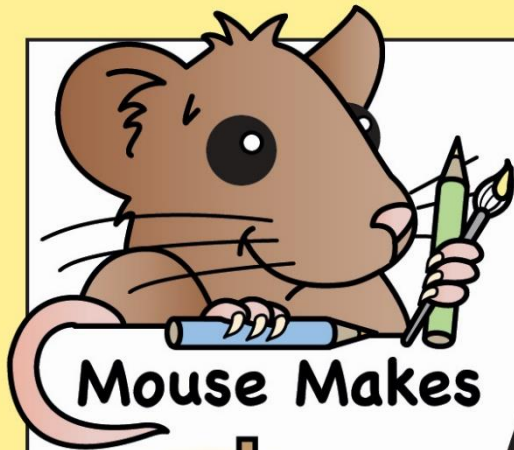
The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness. - *William Plumer*

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. - *E Thomson*

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the church. - *WR Nicoll*

The Christian Church has the resurrection written all over it. - *E G Robinson*

Christianity is the revelation of God, not the research of man. - *JA Stewart*



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**



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G O O D N E W S



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



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HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER



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.

The Wonder and the Sorrow of those PCR Tests

PCR tests were a fact of life for most of us three years ago this month. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people's use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

That swab that you, or someone else, poked down your throat and up your nose went into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid was then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test was actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converted any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA were then made, using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up, it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process worked it meant that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone might have been about to become quite ill.

Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-to-day lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

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Miscellaneous observations on daily life

In the 60s, people took LSD to make the world weird.

Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

If walking/cycling is good for your health, our postmen will be immortal.

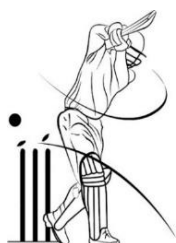
Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The weather has improved which has allowed the ground to recover although it remains quite soft. Preparations for the season are well in hand and we will be welcoming three new players with former player Adam Wilson returning to the club, Dr. Jordan Bethel returning to local cricket to join his brother Callum and a big welcome to professional Qaiser Ashraf, a slow left arm bowler from Lahore. This year, the club will be proudly celebrating 100 years since the move from Whitley Lane, near the Norfolk Arms in Grenoside, to Ecclesfield. A revised scoring position and replacement score board are all part of improvements for the 2025 season. There are several special events planned which I will post in these articles each month – highlights include – a ladies T20 final

in May, a Whitley 6s competition in June, a 20/20 match against a Northampton County team in July, a match against an MCC team in August and a Grand Centenary Dinner in September at the Owlerton OEC with David Gower as guest speaker – tickets still available

Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane (12 noon) (see website for other home games for juniors and ladies)



19 th April	1 st XI	v	Hallam 1 st XI
26 th April	2 nd XI	v	Penistone 1 st XI
3 rd May	1 st XI	v	Wickersley 1 st XI
10 th May	2 nd XI	v	Darfield 1 st XI
17 th May	2 nd XI	v	Rotherham 1 st XI

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

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592 or Andrew Robinson, President: 07793 595238
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

1st April - Fooling Around

Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail. Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted and then being harvested. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Auntie playing games. Whatever next!



Spaghetti harvesting in Switzerland, as shown in the 1 April edition of Panorama in 1957. Photograph: BBC Archive

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25th March to 1st January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25th March.

Thought for the Month

It will soon be Easter, and I for one am really looking forward to it. Easter is the most important feast in the Christian year. It is a celebration of hope, and hope is in very short supply at the moment!

Easter is the heart and soul of the Christian Faith. Without Easter there would be no Church, no Christianity. St Paul, writing not many years after Jesus' death and resurrection said, "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile."

Without the resurrection, the story of Jesus' life is just a human tragedy, and Jesus himself is no more than a mis-guided dreamer who died a needless death at the hands of the Romans.

We struggle to believe in the Resurrection - it seems like a fairy story, something just too good to be true.

We have no problem with the story of Good Friday when Jesus was deserted and betrayed by his friends. Desertion and betrayal are part of life in our world. We have no problem believing in the plotting of priests and politicians to put an innocent man to death on false charges. Sadly, that is just the way of the world. Nor do we struggle to believe in the cruelty and brutality of the guards and soldiers who crucified Jesus.

When we look at the Cross we see a reflection of the pain and sorrow of our world. Jesus' final words as he died on the Cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" speak for many in the world who feel forgotten and abandoned by God.

Our problem is not with Good Friday; we do not struggle to believe in the cross. We struggle with Easter, with the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus.

There is evidence to support the empty tomb, mainly that the authorities were not able to stop the rumours of the resurrection by producing Jesus' dead body. Some have argued that the disciples hid the body and then told a false story of Jesus being raised. But that is hardly plausible; they died, often painful deaths, because they refused to deny the resurrection. Would they all have died for a lie?

For me the most compelling reason to believe in Easter and the resurrection is the change in the disciples.

Before Easter they lived in fear. They deserted Jesus when he was arrested. Peter denied ever knowing him. When Jesus was dying on the Cross they were hiding, terrified that the soldiers who had arrested Jesus would be coming for them.

But only a few weeks later the disciples were changed, transformed. They refused to be silent when the same court that had condemned Jesus ordered them to stop proclaiming the resurrection. They said we will obey God and not you.

The disciples had seen in Jesus' death a defeated enemy. They saw that Jesus had suffered the worst of human evil and had not been defeated by it. As he died he prayed for his executors and when he rose from death he didn't seek revenge, only that hope and forgiveness and life be proclaimed throughout the world in his name.

They lived the rest of their lives knowing that death is a defeated enemy and that the God who meets us in Jesus is more powerful than human evil, more powerful even than Rome and Caesar.

Easter is hope for us. The cross tells us that God is with us, that in Jesus God chooses to put himself at the heart of human suffering. It tells us that even when we cannot sense God's presence, He is with us and will never let us go.

The empty tomb says that God is greater than suffering and death and evil. That in Jesus God's life has triumphed. Christian hope is 'Easter-shaped.' And at Easter we celebrate the victory of Christ, the victory of life and light over the forces of chaos and death. At Easter we are invited to live our lives in the light of the Easter hope.

May God bless you this Easter!

Tim

Holy Week Services 2025

Sunday 13th April	Palm Sunday - 10am Eucharist with blessing of Palms
Monday 14th April	7pm Chrism Service at Sheffield Cathedral
Tuesday 15th April	4pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's
Wednesday 16th April	4pm Evening Prayer at St Mark's
Thursday 17th April	Maundy Thursday - 7pm Eucharist followed by Gethsemane Meditation.
Friday 18th April	Good Friday - 10am Worship for Good Friday 12noon to 3pm The Three Hours at the Cross
Sunday 20th April	Easter Day - Easter Eucharist with renewal of Baptism promises

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 2nd March Emilia Hannah Scholey

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

Marriages

Saturday 1st March Adam Lee Alan Harrington & Danielle Faulkner

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

Funerals

Thursday 6th March Ronald Steven Kendall

Friday 7th March Graham Blackburn

Friday 28th March Ian Hartshorne

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

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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.

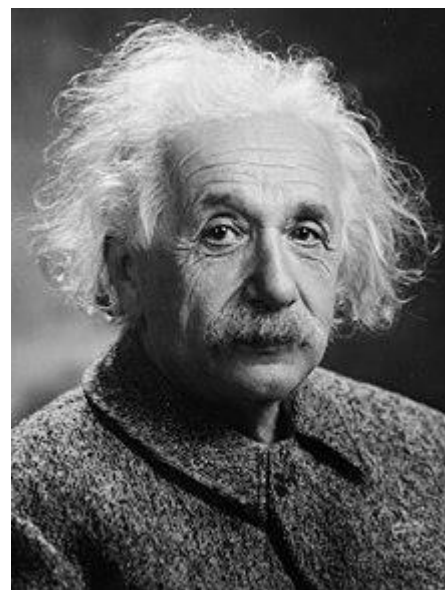
Any help most welcome. Thank you. Pat Wood

Remembering Albert Einstein

by: Tim Lenton

Seventy years ago this month, on 18th April 1955, Albert Einstein, the German-born theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century, he is known especially for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

He formulated possibly the best-known theory in the world – the special theory of relativity (including the iconic equation $E = mc^2$) – in 1905 while working as a technical expert, third class, at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. He went on to become widely known and admired as a physicist of genius. He died in his local hospital in New Jersey of a haemorrhage, having become an American citizen. He was also a Swiss citizen.



Einstein's family were secular Ashkenazi Jews. He was never convinced that God intervened on a personal level, regarding such an idea as naïve. But he had a firm belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe.

He had an ongoing and never settled debate with Niels Bohr, the Danish theoretical physicist, about the way the universe was described by quantum mechanics, holding that chance could not be behind it because "God does not play dice".

Einstein was clear that he was not an atheist – more a "religious nonbeliever". He was disappointed in the end by his failure to prove non-randomness and to come up with a unified field theory by including electromagnetism in his geometric theory of gravitation. He did receive the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his theory of the photoelectric effect.

Not long before he died, he wrote in a letter to physicist David Bohm: "If God created the world, His primary concern was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us."

Albert Einstein was married twice and had three children by his first wife, Mileva Marić. He also played violin – hence the subtle reference to him "playing electric violin" in Bob Dylan's *Desolation Row*.

Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind. - *Albert Einstein*

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

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The Gardening Year – April

The gardening year April, if you're going to have a go at container gardening this year here are a few tips that might be handy. Money matters its true you will need a certain amount of money to set up your container garden. How much you need depends solely on your plans and goals. If money is no object, then buying a sorted container, bags of compost and tools won't be a problem, but if your budget is limited you will need to make every penny count.

Cheaper option are there some foods you don't buy because they are too expensive? While root crops are relatively cheap, foods like tomatoes and peppers can cost more. Perhaps these would be a perfect excuse to grow your own. Next time your shopping compere prices of fresh foods and see which ones are out of your price range. Next take a look at how easy it might be to grow these foods and add these to your list of foods you would like to grow. Cutting cost gardening can be very expensive, but the growing trend towards the (make do and mend) approach can save you lots of money as well as being better for the environment.

Our convenient lifestyle often comes at a price. Yes, it's more convenient to write a long list of everything you want and head to the garden centre to buy the lot, but with some planning and searching around, you might be able to get lots of things much cheaper or even for free. Recycling maybe you have things lying around at home already that would be perfect, anything can be used for a gardening container as long as it has drainage holes and is big enough. All saucepans with broken handles, a bucket with a hole in it, even spare car tyres can be used to grow food. If you scour your sheds and garages you might find items that can double up as tools.

Don't let a limited budget stop you growing your own food. There are plenty of ways to fund your project and let's face it we always manage to find money for things we really want to do, for enjoying a drink at the end of the week to spending money on a haircut. It's all a question of prioritizing. If you have a garden or allotment and have not planted onion sets, seed potatoes, main crop peas, beetroot, lettuce, radishes, and carrots in March, it is still possible to do so now. If your growing carrots in containers the best variety to use is one called Nantes no 2.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – April

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

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs – Basil, Chives, Dill, Sorrel

Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

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

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

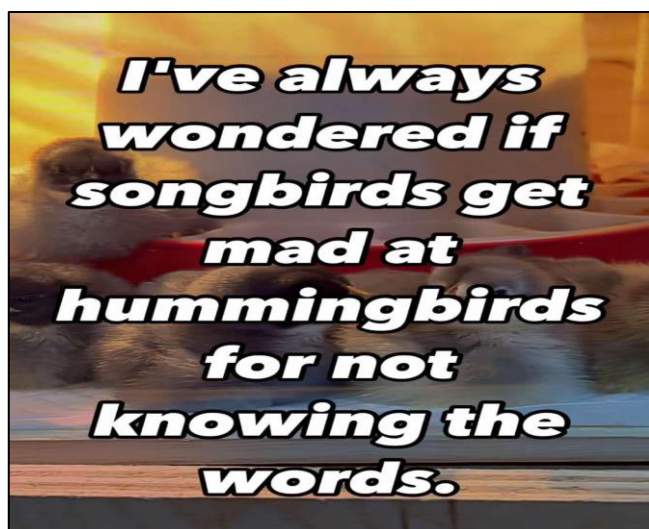
Joseph's tomb - Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?" **Joseph:** "Well it's just for the weekend."

Easter chocolate dilemma - 364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!"

On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

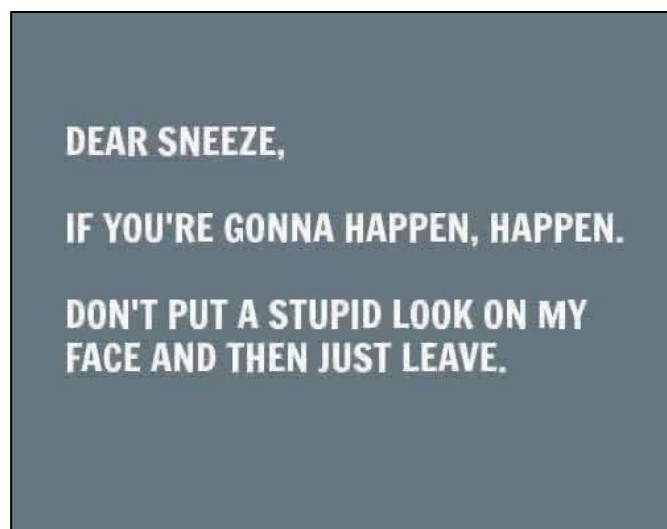
Why Easter - A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us, and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"



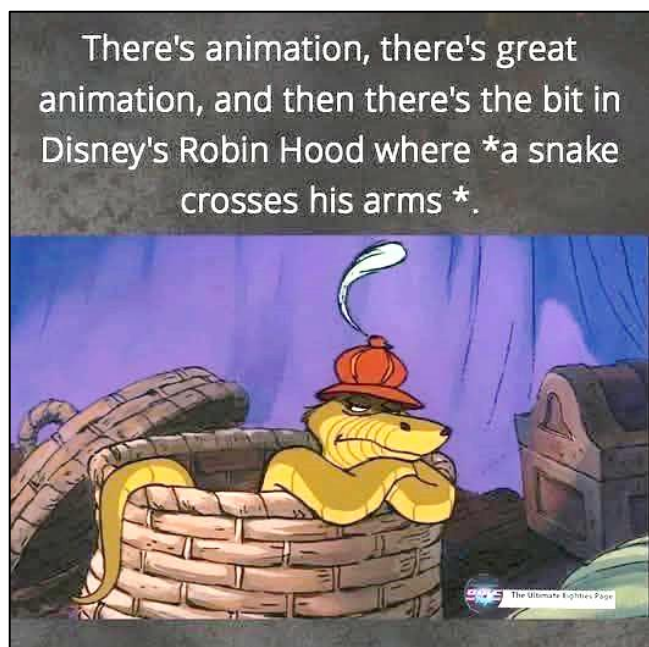
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney



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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coach_\(carriage\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coach_(carriage))



ERIC EYRE

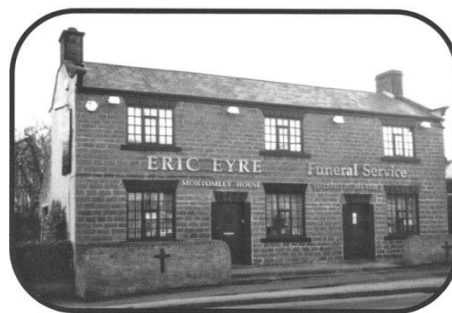
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Time to Eat - Purple Sprouting Broccoli

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

Purple sprouting broccoli was initially cultivated by the Romans. Broccoli has been grown in the UK since the early 18th century, although the purple sprouting variety has only risen to prominence in the last 30 years.

What is purple sprouting broccoli. This untidy-looking, colourful cousin of broccoli can be used in much the same way. Leafier and deeper in colour than calabrese, it adds vibrancy and crunch to vegetable dishes. Broccoli is a cruciferous plant, in the same family as the cabbage, and is closely related to the cauliflower.



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

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

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

Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Mozzarella and Tomato Bake

<https://www.riverford.co.uk/recipes/psb-mozzarella-tomato-bake>

Roasted Purple Sprouting Broccoli

<https://www.riverford.co.uk/recipes/purple-sprouting-broccoli-wild-garlic>

Purple Sprouting Broccoli with Chilli and Sesame Dressing

<https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/books/delias-vegetarian-collection/purple-sprouting-broccoli-with-chilli-lime-and-sesame-dressing>

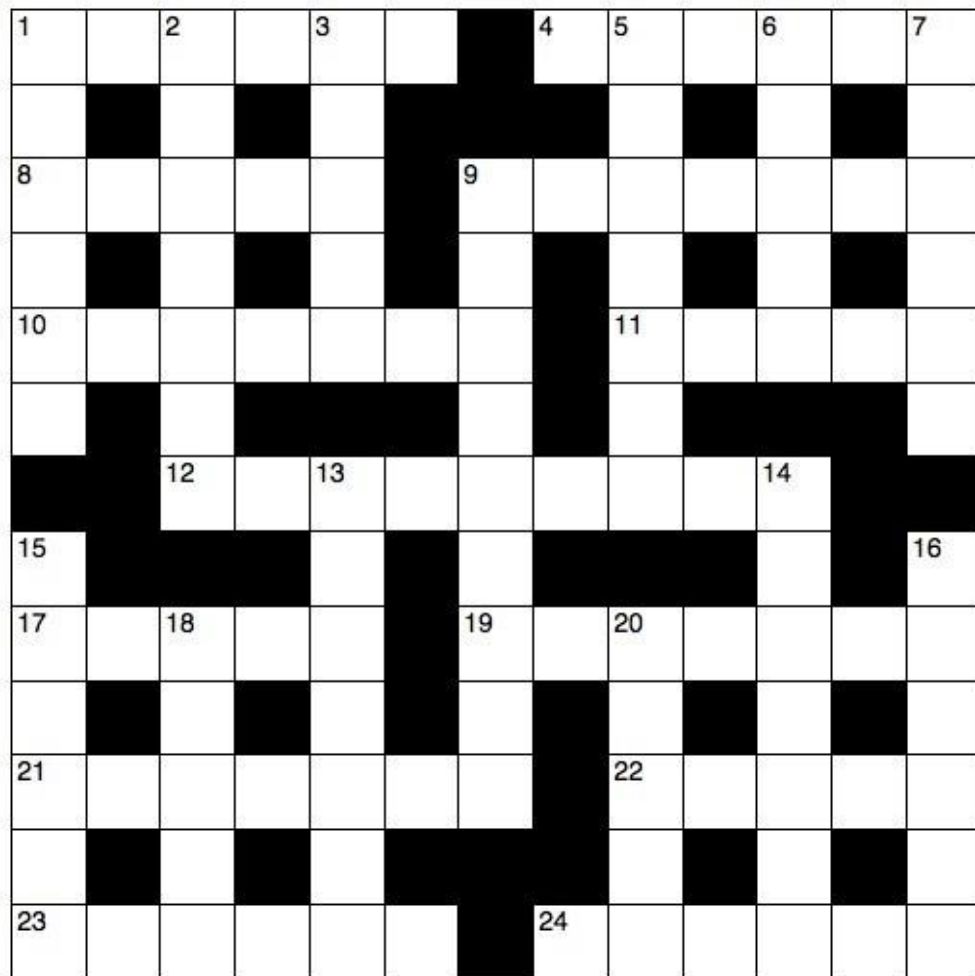
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



Prayer for April 2025 - *By Daphne Kitching*

Living Lord Jesus,

We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts. For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations.

Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

*Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again
Hallelujah!*

Chapeltown & District Probus Club



Our March meeting was the Annual Meeting where some of our Committee names have changed. Thanks were given to Neil Wilkinson for his successful year in the Chair and we welcomed Peter McDermott as New Chairman and Robert Woodhead as the new Vice-Chairman. We said farewell to long term Committee members Ray Sanderson and Peter Trickett who retired from formal duties and welcomed Mike Griffiths who joins the Committee. There are still vacancies, especially to fill the roles of Social Events organisation and Visits organisation.

The first trip booked for 2025 is a visit to Skipton and a 3 hour canal trip with full Yorkshire Ploughman's Lunch on 13th May. There are still a few places available at a price of approximately £45 if anyone is interested in joining us – please contact our Secretary - details below. Future visits will be the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, likely to be in September, and the AVRO Aviation Museum, likely to be later in 2025 or early 2026 – watch this space.

Our guest speaker in April will be Paul Adey, well known for his talks on motor cars and this time he will be talking about the American Car Industry in part 1 of a two-talk programme. Likely to be very topical in view of the current politics in the USA!

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).

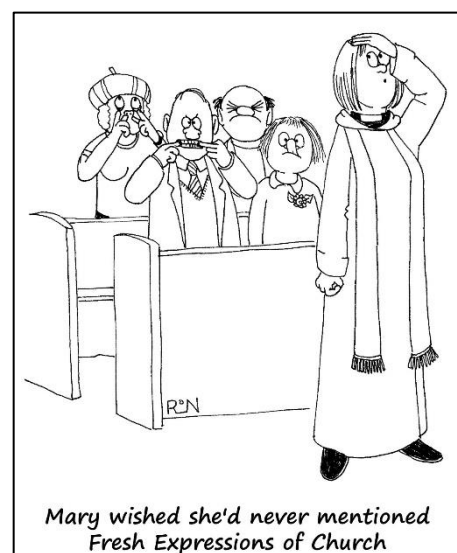
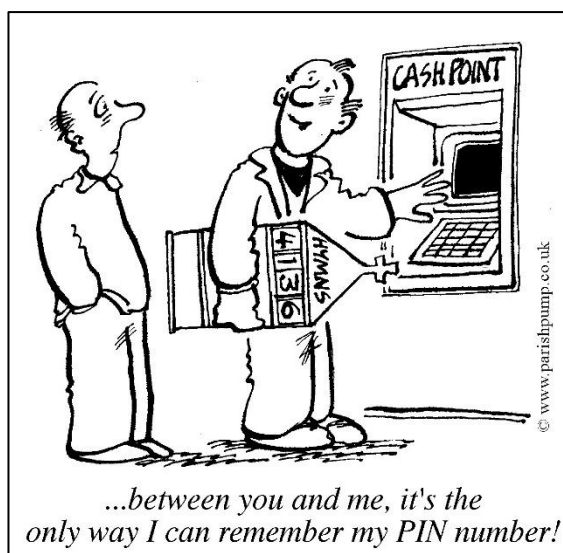
Meetings

9th April	Paul Adey	American Motor Industry (part 1)
14th May	Jonathon Jones	Bugle Boy
11th June	Mike Higginbottom	The History of Sheffield Cinema

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

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

Andrew Robinson



A Common Thief

I've lived a life of emptiness
A common thief am I;
Of no great use to man or beast
And now I have to die.

They've nailed me to a wooden cross
They took my clothes as well;
The pain and shame is all I have
And soon I'll be in Hell.

But this man nailed next to me
He's done no evil thing!
His innocence is clear to see -
They say He is a King.

There hangs, beyond, another thief
Just hear him swear and curse!
Demanding that He saves us all
He's making all this worse!

"We knew that this would be our fate!
"We've known it all along!
"But have respect for this poor man
"For He's done nothing wrong!"

"O Jesus, when Your Kingdom comes,
"My Lord, remember me!"
He looked at me with tender love,
Responding to my plea:

"The truth of what I say to you
"You'll shortly come to see
"For you will come, this very day
"To Paradise with Me."

I wept upon my painful cross
No thing I had to bring;
But yet He looked upon this wretch
And gave me everything!

By Nigel Beeton



The Magic World of Oliver Postgate

Born 12/4/1925 – Died 8/12/2008

The Clangers on their planet, the Pogles in their wood
In Oliver's bright kingdom we children had it good!
Smallfilms brought us joy, and spoiled us all for choice
With ev'ry charming tale told by Oliver's fine voice.

In Wales' top left corner a small green engine puffed
And Ivor was the engine's name, he whistled and he chuffed.
He kept a dragon's egg within his fire so hot
Which Jones the Steam his driver never seemed to spot!

A stuffed cloth cat called Bagpuss still figures in our dreams;
He was pink and baggy, a bit loose at the seams!
We met the king of the Northmen - Noggin the much-loved Nog,
And the Pogles were a family who lived in a hollow log.

Green soup and blue string pudding which all the Clangers eat
Provided by a soup dragon who lives beneath their feet!
So thank you Mr Postgate for all that you have done
To bring such joy into our lives and fill them full of fun!

By Nigel Beeton



An after-Easter prayer

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in your churches
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell

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

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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



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<u>Vicar:</u> Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
Church Office Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
Website	https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/	
Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:
Choir Practice in Church Contact: Lynda Pearce	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	208 3500
Music Group Contact: Andrea Whittaker	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall Contact: Maureen Lambert	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Anne Rostron	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	245 5492
Bell Ringers Contact: Phil Hirst	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings		0780 307 8223
For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar		
Magazine e-mail:	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	

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

Date	Day	Colour
6 th April	5 th Sunday of Lent	Purple
13 th April	Palm Sunday	Red or Purple
17 th April	Maundy Thursday	White
18 th April	Good Friday	
20 th April	Easter Sunday	White
27 th April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	White or Gold



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