

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine November

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First Words

November is here bringing long dark nights and also some of our most important celebrations including All Saints' and All Souls' at the start of the month, and ending with one of my favourite festivals, Christ the King.

The month begins with the **All Saints** service on **Sunday 2nd November at 10am**, this year we will be a baptism in the main service. Our regular monthly **Baptisms** follow at **12noon**, and the day ends with our annual **All Souls' Memorial Service at 4pm**.

On **Monday 3rd November** the **PCC** will meet at **7.30pm** in Church.

Wednesday 5th November, 6pm, The Seeing Heart, Meditation and Contemplative Prayer for all.

On **Saturday 8th November** we have **Prayer Breakfast at 9am** and **Bereavement Cafe at 10.30am**.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on the **9th of November**. We meet in Church at **10am** and gather at the **Cenotaph at 11am**. At 6.30pm on Sunday 9th November we celebrate the Eucharist.

Bible Study Group meets on **Tuesday 11th November at 2pm**.

On **Wednesday 19th November The Seeking Heart**, Meditation and Contemplative Prayer for all.

The **Christmas Fayre** will be in Church on **Saturday 22nd November 10am to 2pm**.

On **Sunday 23rd November** we celebrate the feast of **Christ the King**. Our preacher at the Eucharist at 10am will be Revd Katharine Lonsborough.

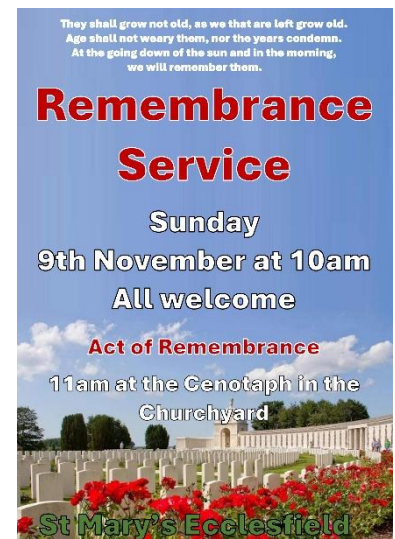
Advent begins on **Sunday 30th November**. At 10am we have a service of **Advent Carols and Readings**, and at 6.30pm we have a celebration of the Eucharist.

For more information about any of these events please speak to Tim.

Front Cover – WW1 Remembrance 'Poppy' stained glass window
John's School Chapel, Leatherhead – by Sunrise Stained Glass 2014

Inside Front Cover – EinB Christmas Fayre

Back Cover – Church Christmas Fayre



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.

bacp
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Prayer for the Month

*O Lord God, from whom we come,
in whom we are enfolded,
to whom we shall return.
Bless us in our pilgrimage through life,
with the power of the Father protecting,
with the love of Jesus indwelling,
and the light of the Spirit guiding,
until we come to our ending
in life and love eternal.*

(Peter Knott, The Pilgrimage Prayer.)

I have only recently discovered this beautiful poem by Peter Knott. It is a prayer for pilgrims on a journey, but it also reminds us that life is a pilgrimage, a journey. "Bless us in our pilgrimage through life," it asks. The idea of life as a journey to God is not new, it was famously used by John Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The end of our journey is God Himself, the One who is life and love eternal.

But the prayer reminds us that we live our lives, we make our pilgrimage in God's presence and with God's guidance and help. And the God who journeys with us through our lives is the trinitarian God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On our journey we discover that God is ahead of us, already in the places that we travel to. We learn to seek God in all things and to see Christ in all people.

If our destination is communion with God, then our starting point, the origin of our pilgrimage, is also God, the one in whose image we are made. We are not an accident of the universe, we are God's good creation.

We come from God, we journey to God and as we make our pilgrimage we do so enfolded in the love of God. The point of the journey, the destination of our pilgrimage through life, is that in travelling this world we learn to love, we learn to depend on God and on our fellow pilgrims and so we become the people, the children of God, that we were made to be.

God bless you as you travel through the month of November, Tim.

A MAN ON A MISSION! – Bishop Peter Knott was born in 1934 and educated at Bristol Grammar School, Dulwich College and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; he was ordained in 1961. He began his ordained ministry as a curate at Harpenden after which he was chaplain at Fitzwilliam College and then Rector of Beaconsfield. In October 1977 he was consecrated Bishop of Taunton and served there until he became the 70th Bishop of Norwich in 1985, succeeding Maurice Wood.

Three years before retiring, Bishop Peter Knott published his 'Bishop Peter's Pilgrimage' which was his personal Diary and Sketchbook. This book charted, in words and pictures, a year-long Open-Door pilgrimage across his Diocese to coincide with its 900th Anniversary.

From: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/norfolk.history.tales.myths>

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Praying with the Prayers of the Bible: when your prayer is not answered

Editor: by Canon Paul Hardingham

2 Cor. 12:8; 'Three times I asked the Lord about this ...*but...*'

Paul is talking about one of the most mysterious and one of the most baffling aspects of prayer – when God does not say yes.

On the face of it, Paul's prayer was very modest. For some time he had been troubled by 'a thorn in the flesh.' He doesn't tell us what the 'thorn' was and down the centuries theologians and commentators have made suggestions. Most of them have thought that the affliction was physical because Paul says it was 'in the flesh.' Some have suggested that he suffered from epileptic fits which caused him to fall down, while others have suggested that he was laid low by constant fevers or that he had very poor eyesight, the last based on his remarks in Galatians 6:11. But in spite of this great servant of the Lord praying earnestly three times that the thorn would be removed, God did not answer as Paul expected. A number of things in this passage (verses 7-10) are very helpful to all of us in the matter of prayer.

First, although God's answer was not what Paul asked for, God did answer him. God is never indifferent to the prayers we utter from the depth of our heart. Unlike the idol Baal in the Old Testament story about Elijah, (1 Kings 18) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus is not on a journey, nor is he busy elsewhere, nor is he sleeping. He hears our prayers and our cries when we come to Him in our need and pain and distress.

Second, although Paul did not get the answer he wanted, God made him a wonderful promise. He said, 'My grace is sufficient for you' (v.9). This was not what Paul asked for, yet what a promise it was! God said in effect. 'I will not take the thorn away – but my daily grace is all-sufficient.' In spite of the thorn, Paul will triumph. When God gives us all-sufficient grace, it will take care of everything in our lives.

Thirdly, Paul learnt that God's wonderful grace meant that in his weakness 'the power of Christ' (v.9) would be with him, the power that would make him effective and fruitful in his ministry.

<p>Crossword Puzzle Solution is here</p>

ACROSS: 1, Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

God in The Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist.

'He gave us eyes to see them': Zubarán's 'Jacob and his twelve sons'

In the Old Testament the story of Jacob is a vivid saga of struggle and conflict: Jacob vies with his brother Esau, he has a difficult time with Laban, there are tensions in his family, and finally he wrestles with a divine stranger. And yet in the book of Genesis his days end with promises from God: he will be blessed with descendants, a land, fruitfulness and the assurance of God's presence with him. He is given a new name and a new destiny as 'Israel.' We sense all this struggle and blessing in a remarkable series of thirteen paintings, 'Jacob and his twelve sons' by the Spanish artist, Francisco Zubarán.



They hang in the dining room of Auckland Castle at Bishop Auckland. Bishop Auckland grew as a thriving market town and then in the industrial age became the centre of the Durham coal industry. It was also the site for the prince bishop of Durham's palace. In the medieval period the bishop was as powerful as the monarch of the land, with an army that rivalled the king's own forces. Auckland Castle became the country seat for the prince bishops, and in the 18th century Bishop Richard Trevor made the palace more Gothic and imposing than ever before. To mark the 1753 Act that allowed Jews to be naturalised in England, he purchased the portraits of Jacob and his sons by Zubarán for £124.

Zubarán normally painted monks and saints, and this particular series was meant for the colonies. But they were seized by pirates and then sold to a London merchant. The one depicting Benjamin was bought by Lord Ancaster, and so Bishop Trevor was only able to buy twelve. He commissioned Arthur Pond, a jobbing painter, to make an exact copy of Benjamin to complete his set. The series of canvases, each eight feet tall, was in the news recently when there was a possibility they might be sold. They were saved by a Trust, now dedicated to developing the site of the Castle, which includes not just the dining room, where the paintings hang, but a very fine chapel of St Peter, a throne room, and beautiful gardens.



**Sons of Jacob in Auckland Castle.
Photo North News**

Jacob and his sons are each painted against the daylight sky, and each has its individual characteristics. Judah for instance is clad in a brown and gold garment with a gold circlet crowning his head as the ancestor of King David and Joseph, the husband of Mary. Gad is a strong soldier. Jacob, the father of these twelve sons, is a bearded old man, bowed down with the weight, not just of his years of struggle, but perhaps also the burden of destiny laid on his shoulders as both a blessing and a responsibility. For in the Old Testament, we learn that God often chooses the ones overlooked by the world: the young boy David above his more likely brothers, Isaac above Ishmael, and in the saga behind these impressive paintings of Zubarán, Jacob, the second born son, but here blessed as the father of God's people.

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From the Registers

Errata – in the October edition of the magazine Edward Willim Webster should have read as Edward William Webster

Baptisms

Sunday 5th October

Harley Scott Needham and Laney Jorge Webb

Sunday 12th October

Steven Green (At the confirmation at St Saviour's High Green)

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

Funerals

Monday 6th October

Wendy Scarlett

Monday 6th October

Brandon Worth

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

Reflecting Faith: Do we hear God's Word today?

The Revd Dr Jo White considers...

For the last few months, we've been looking at the way that church services are put together. After the Gloria each week, this we hear 'God's Word' as written in the Bible. This is usually three passages: one from the Old Testament, one from the epistles, and one from the gospels.

But *how much* do we hear of God's Word? Though we say we want to 'hear God's word', actually the amount we hear week on week is quite minimal.

In bygone days, when the 1662 Book of Common Prayer was universally used in churches, it brought with it a two year lectionary: (unlike today's three year lectionary: lectionary being the recommended or obligatory Bible readings for each day).

This gave congregations, if they came to daily services both morning and evening (which in those times they most likely did) during the course of a year, an opportunity to hear read *the whole Old Testament once, the New Testament twice and all the Psalms twelve times*.

What a contrast to today! In most UK churches, attendance is now at only one service each week, mostly on Sunday. During that service, perhaps 15 or 20 Bible verses might be read.

Now, there are around 31,100 verses in the Bible, which means that at a generous 30 verses a week the congregation will hear around 1,560 verses in a year – that's around 5% each year. So even on a three-year cycle, with a few extra readings for good measure, we hear no more than 20% of the Bible.

I suspect there are two key reasons for this diminution of Bible verses being read. Firstly, church services have got shorter and take up far less time. Secondly, congregations have become more literate, and so it is thought that they do not need it all read out to them.

It would be interesting to know how much of the read-aloud-Bible people heard and listened to and absorbed, in relation to how much do that today, with the shorter verses being read to them coupled with much shortened sermons.

This month

Next time you go to a Sunday church service listen to the Bible reading with keen ears. How much do you recall a few days later? How much of the Bible that you have not heard recently in church have you read for yourself?

Thank you

The members and committee of Chapeltown Silver Prize Band would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Graham Oxley Memorial concert such a success. To the Rev'd Tim Gill who arranged for us to use the church and made sure we were able to get in on the day. To Peter Lonsborough for advertising the concert in the Parish Magazine and for his amazing work producing the posters and circulating them in and around the church and allowing us to use them as well. To Ann Hackett and her team of ladies in the coffee shop who sold tickets and spread the word and last but not least to the members of the church who supported the concert on the day. Thank you to each and every one of you. We really did appreciate all your help.

Margaret Bryan

St James the Least of All

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

On what it takes to be an ordinand

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I was intrigued that you have been nurturing someone called Dave who is considering ordination. Since Dave had never travelled outside the city, your decision to send him to me was understandable. Sadly, I don't think he is cut out for the ministry.

We did our best. In a fit of hospitality, the Colonel invited this Dave to stay at the Lodge, and to join his Saturday pheasant shoot as a beater. But Dave said firmly that he was against beating any kind of bird and abhors all kinds of murder. It seems young Dave is a vegetarian! You might have warned us. The Colonel is now concerned that Dave is connected in some way with the Green Party. You cannot be too careful these days.

Then Miss Saxby and Miss Tarby stepped in. They enjoy mushrooming, and kindly took young Dave off to the woods. It is not their fault that they are a bit deaf and so did not hear his cries of distress when he lost them among all the trees. They just assumed he had gone back to the Colonel's, and so of course they did not organise a search party until much later. Fortunately, the church warden's spaniel has a keen nose and found Dave before midnight. During all that time, Dave seemed to have had nothing better to do than slide about on fallen leaves and trip over hidden logs in the dark. He was even babbling about having heard a crying ghost. We feared he might be delirious but then realised he meant the local owl. He also seemed surprised by the darkness and asked how we manage without any streetlights at all in the parish. We explained the obvious - we simply follow the example of the well-refreshed when leaving the pub, and feel our way along the walls.

On Sunday morning Dave rushed into the church to warn me that there were several loose sheep in the churchyard. I decided then that he should return to the safety of the city. There was no point in letting him near most of our church ladies, who would have savaged him on sight.

The visit only proves the obvious: potential ordinands should be carnivorous, cricketing fly-fishers, most at home in well-worn tweeds and preferably accompanied by a muddy dog. How else will they get along with normal folk?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Ed - In the Church of England, an ordinand is a person who is training to be ordained as a deacon or priest. They undergo a selection and training process, typically involving theological study and practical ministry experience, over several years to discern their calling and prepare for ordained ministry.

Ordination is the process by which individuals are consecrated, that is, set apart and elevated from the laity class to the clergy, who are thus then authorized (usually by the denominational hierarchy composed of other clergy) to perform various religious rites and ceremonies.

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What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Ephesians

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

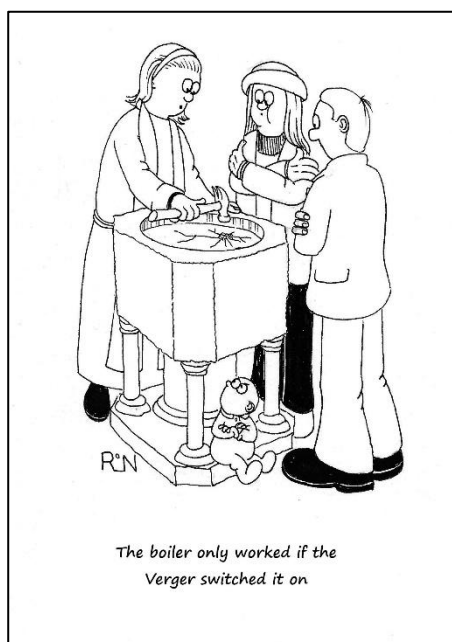
Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians around AD 60, while in prison at Rome. It was probably a circular letter to be read in the house churches of Ephesus and the local area. Paul founded the church over a period of three years (Acts 19:1-20:1) between 52-55 AD. Ephesus was the leading city and commercial centre in the region, famous for its temple to the goddess Artemis (Diana).

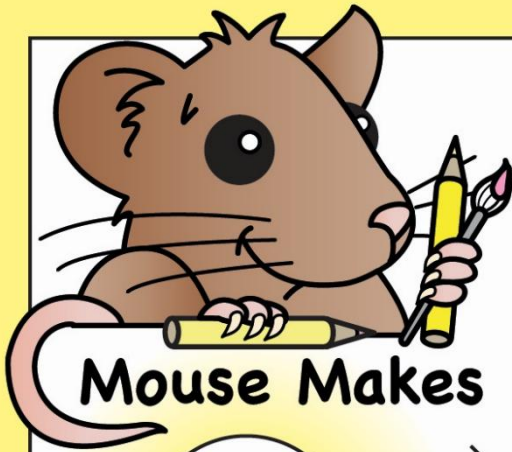
Paul's aim in writing his letter was to help his readers understand the dimensions of God's purpose and grace for them and His eternal plan for the church. The believers needed to understand their status *'in Christ'* and the call to live a life worthy of Christ. Ephesians is divided into two halves: chapters 1-3 concern theological issues, while chapters 4-6 deal with the practical outworking of faith.

Having shown God's purpose for the church, Paul shows how God has reconciled individuals to Himself by grace (2:1-10). He has reconciled people to each other by breaking down the barriers through Christ's death (2:11-22). This is the *'mystery'* revealed by Paul (3:1-13) and he shows how Christ's gifts promote unity and maturity (4:1-16). The believer's new life stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ (4:17-6:20).

The great overarching theme of the letter is that we are rescued by God not just for our personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to Him in our lives: *'He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (1:9,10).

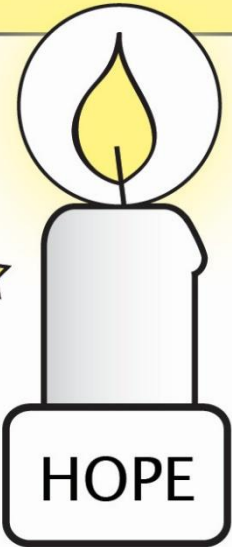
Toons



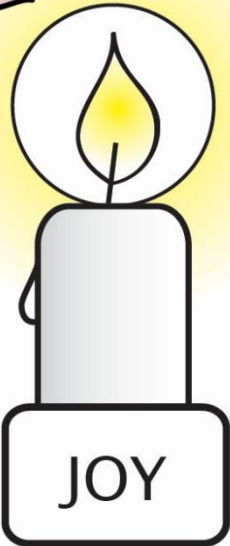


LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November. ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



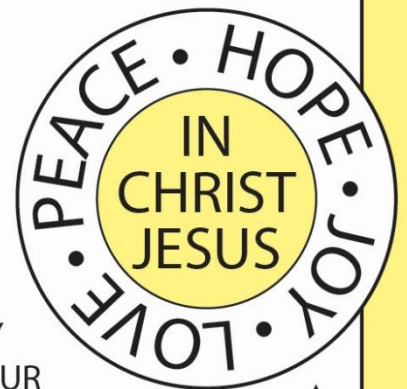
Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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God in the Sciences

Editor: Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith

Wonder and Worship

“I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea”.

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to “pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation”. His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White’s book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there’s even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it’s easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them” (NIV).

*(White’s book can be downloaded for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)

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The Local Christmas Carols

One of the special treats about Christmas in Ecclesfield is the continuing tradition of singing 'local' carols. These are Christmas songs which are quite separate from the more familiar 'national' carols usually sung in church services, on TV programmes and in films. The exact origin of the local carols is not completely clear. It is believed that they started as Christmas folk songs, created by local people, and were probably in existence by the 1600s. Like all folk songs, they have continued to grow and change over time and were not written down with music until the 1800s

Ecclesfield is one of only a limited number of villages in Britain that have kept locally-written carols alive. A couple of centuries ago communities each had many individual traditions, including their own carols which would have been sung in churches. The Victorians then introduced a more standard set of carols, national carols which are in fact international, written by well-known English or European composers. In many places, the local ones were thrown out of churches and generally forgotten. But in just a few places – villages, mainly around the north and west of Sheffield – Ecclesfield, Grenoside, Oughtibridge, Worrall, Bradfield, Dungworth, Bolsterstone, Stannington, Ingbirchworth but also in parts of North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and suprisingly in Cornwall and even in parts of the USA, They have been kept alive by families and local musicians, and by singing in pubs, possibly linked to a tradition of mining.

Ecclesfield Church continued to respect both the national carols and local carols with the vicar of Ecclesfield for much of the 19th century, Dr. Gatty, known to have composed at least two local carols and arranged several others.

The local carols are quite distinctive; some refer to local people such as Newton and Chambers and many have separate parts for men and woman with refrains very similar to the hymns written by Charles Wesley. And then there are the traditional words of 'while shepherds watched' set to at least 28 different tunes! In Ecclesfield, the tradition of the local carols remains well-established and it used to be common for them to be sung in church and in homes and also by carollers walking around the village 'wassailing'.

This year, Local Carols will be sung in both the Greyhound and Black Bull pubs and around the village Christmas Tree and then in Ecclesfield Church. Do come and experience this special part of Ecclesfield's history and enjoy a unique local flavour to Christmas.

Everyone is welcome to come and join in or just to listen.

Thursday 13 November – 8:00 pm at The Greyhound
Thursday 20 November – 8:30 pm at The Black Bull
Thursday 27 November – 8:00 pm at The Greyhound
Thursday 4 December – 8:30 pm at The Black Bull
Thursday 11 December – 8:00 pm at The Greyhound
Saturday 13 December - Coffee morning at the EPPiC Theatre
Thursday 18 December – 8:30 pm at The Black Bull

Monday 22 December 7:00 pm around the Christmas tree in the churchyard at St Mary's, followed at 7:40 pm by a sing in the church.



Andrew & David Robinson

Thought for the Month

Every November for the past few years I have been more and more aware of how important this National Day of Prayer, remembering and celebration is.

In recent years we have seen war in Mainland Europe, something that as a child I thought would never happen again. With the deepening divisions in society and the threat to democracies across the globe we see just how important it is that we remember, that we do not forget.

For the past eighty or so years in Britain we have lived in a protected bubble. We have taken peace, prosperity and freedom for granted. And now they are all under threat. They are precious and they are fragile and we wonder what our children or grandchildren will experience in the coming decades.

Remembering matters for two reasons. Firstly it reminds us that the peace and the freedom that we enjoy did not simply happen. They were fought for. They were hard won. They are the gift of an earlier generation, and I sometimes wonder if we are squandering that gift; if we are throwing it away or allowing it to be taken from us?

The second reason why we must remember is that if we forget the past we are more likely to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Life is precious and fragile, as is peace, as is freedom. They are precious and they are the conditions under which our children and grandchildren will flourish.

So this Remembrance Sunday say a prayer for those who died in conflict, give thanks for their gift to us; say a prayer also for the next generation, that we will pass onto them a world in which they can grow and flourish.

We will remember!

The Seeking Heart

Introducing Contemplative Prayer for all.

Meeting in St Mary's at 6pm on the first and third Wednesday every month.

We next meet on Wednesday 5th & Wednesday 19th November.

For more information see Tim. All welcome.



Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

"What is more important," asked the large panda, "The journey or the destination?"
"The company," answered the small dragon.

A struggling farmer to his wife "What are we growing this year?" – Wife "Older, ruder and more intolerant."

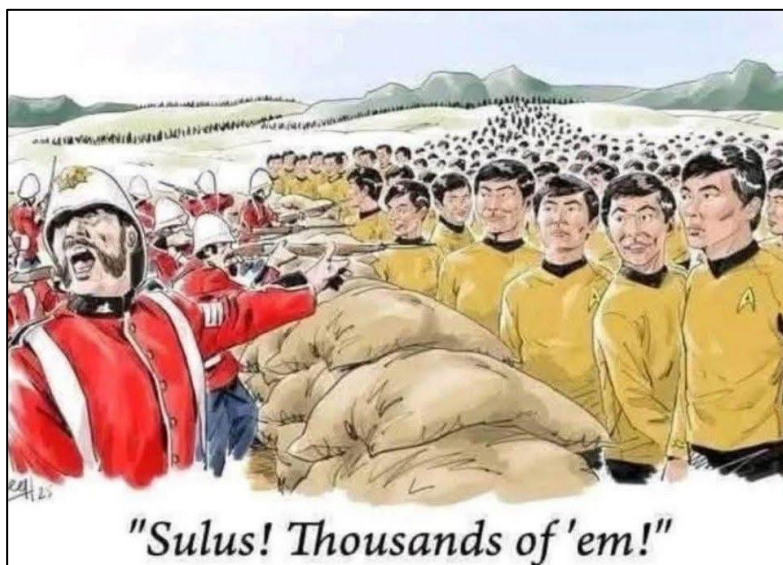
I visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen I saw a man frying chips. I asked him "Are you the friar?" He replied "No, I'm the chip monk..."

Dorothy - Oh, I really do miss Kansas, Toto... And Styx, Foreigner, Aerosmith, Boston, Pink Floyd, and Led Zeppelin. <https://youtu.be/FTQbiNvZqaY>

How do you console an English teacher? There, their, they're

"As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two." – *Norman Wisdom*

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

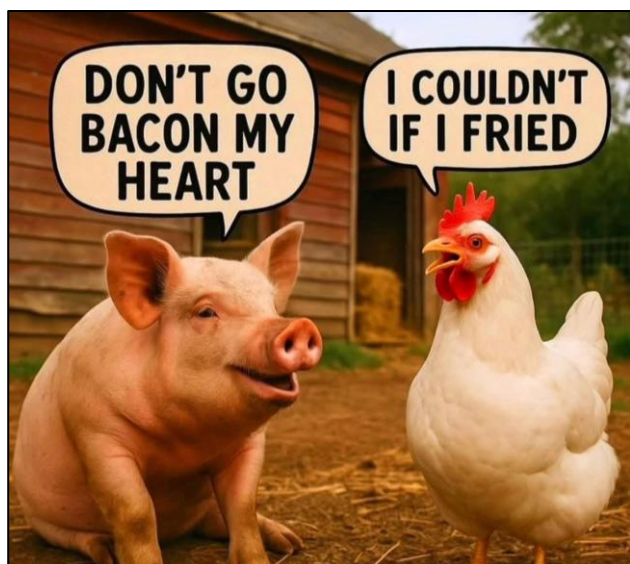


<https://www.assisteddogs.org.uk/information-hub/>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0qW9P-uYfM>

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



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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



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Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

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The Gardening Year – November

Weeding it is very important to keep weeds out of your containers. Once they grow roots they compete with your plants for water, nutrients and light. At their worst, weeds can strangle and suffocate plants. In addition, pest can hide underneath weeds and the weeds themselves can carry diseases. Fortunately, weeding containers is straight forward as long as you adopt a little and often approach.

Tips for weeding, weeding can either be a huge chore or a satisfying job depending on how often and well you do it. Here are some tips to make weeding a pleasure.

1. Timing creating a weeding schedule, work in short, sharp bursts throughout the week, this could be 10 minutes a day or 2 half hour slots a week.
2. When to weed, best to weed after watering your containers, this makes them much easier to get out.
3. How to weed, gently loosen the soil around the weeds with a fork then pull the weeds out, including the root.
4. Roots, be careful when loosening soil around crops with shallow roots so that you don't damage them.
5. Nip them out, if you don't let the weeds develop your job will be easier and your crops will be healthier.
- 6.

Temperature although you shouldn't plant most crops outdoors until all risk of frost have passed, the beauty of container gardening is that you have much more control over the environment. If a frost is forecast after you have planted out, you can take action to prevent any damage. - Remember to:

1. insulate your pot with some hessian or bubble wrap.
2. move pots to a more protected area, such as against a south facing wall.
3. Cover your plants with cloches to help retain heat in the soil.
4. move pots indoors if possible. Remember to take off any protective coverings during the day to allow your plants to get the light they need.

November is a good month for planting shrubs and herbaceous plants, and for clearing up before winter. If you have a garden or allotment the next 2 or 3 months is ideal to clear it and dig it over getting ready for next year. After digging over leave rough for the winter frost to break down the soil.

Colin William

Eat the Seasons – November

Vegetables - Artichoke, Beetroot, Butternut Squash, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Pumpkin, Swede, Turnips, Wild Mushrooms,

Fruit - Apples, Clementines, Cranberries, Passion Fruit, Pears, Quince, Grapefruit

Herbs – Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Walnuts

Meat - Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Duck, Goose, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Brill, Clams, Coley, Eel, Haddock, Hake, Halibut, John Dory, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Plaice, Pollack, Scallops, Sea Bass, Sea Bream, Skate, Squid, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

ERIC EYRE

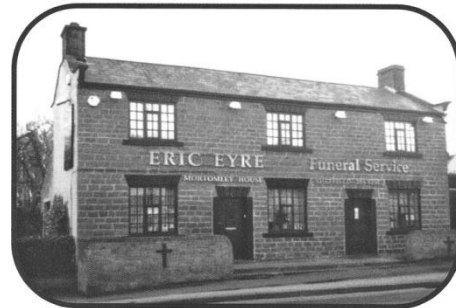
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Time to Eat - Butternut Squash

Butternut squash is one of the most popular and widely available forms of winter squash. Varying in shape from cylindrical to half-dumbbell, its smooth tan exterior hides deliciously sweet, dense and buttery orange flesh. The adaptability of the butternut squash is demonstrated by the wide variety of uses to which it is put in different countries. Across the globe it crops up in recipes for stews, gratins, pasta dishes, risottos, soups and curries. When baked and mashed, perhaps with a touch of nutmeg or cinnamon and a splash of cream, it makes a very appetising autumnal side dish - try it with your Sunday roast.



The squash has long been an established part of the diet in each of the five continents. Its exact origin is not clear but it is thought that it was eaten in the Americas over 5,000 years ago. It is known to have been cultivated by the Incas in the fifteenth century and remains a very important source of food throughout much of central and south America. Butternut squash belongs to the *Cucurbita moschata* species.

If you can push a fingernail into the rind of a squash it is immature and will be lacking in flavour and sweetness. The rind should be firm and unbroken with a uniform matt tan or beige colouring (free from green tinges). Squash should feel heavy for their size (indicating a high moisture content - squash gradually lose water after harvesting). Bigger squash generally have a more highly developed flavour. Squash are amongst the longest keeping vegetables. In a cool (not refrigerator-cold), dry, well-ventilated place they can keep for three months or more. At room temperature, or in the fridge, they will deteriorate more quickly, but should be fine for at least a couple of weeks.

Cooking - The hard rind, dense flesh and awkward shape mean that butternut squash requires careful cutting. Use a large knife or cleaver to make a shallow cut down the length of the squash (curves permitting). Place the blade in the cut and knock the back of the blade (using your hand, a wooden mallet or rolling pin) until the squash is cut in half lengthways. Scoop out the seeds and any fibrous-strings (the seeds are edible - raw or toasted - but the fibrous coat can be fiddly to remove). If you require chunks of squash, cut a small piece of each end, enabling you to stand it vertically and trim off the rind before slicing and dicing.

Squash should be cooked until tender. Baking a halved butternut squash is an excellent way of preserving and intensifying its flavours. Cubes can also be added to casseroles or curries. Boiling is quicker than baking but will result in some sugars being absorbed into the water and so is best used for dishes (such as soups) where the flavoured water forms part of the dish rather than being discarded. A quick gratin can be made by softening thinly sliced butternut squash in a pan with a knob of butter, before finishing under the grill with the addition of cream and grated cheese.

Butternut squash is a well-balanced food source that is rich in complex carbohydrates and low in saturated fat and sodium. It is a very good source of vitamins A and C and a good source of beta-carotene, magnesium, manganese, calcium and potassium. Plainly cooked and pureed butternut squash makes a delicious and nutritious baby food.

45 butternut squash recipes

<https://www.olivemagazine.com/recipes/collection/best-ever-butternut-squash-recipes/>

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Clues Down

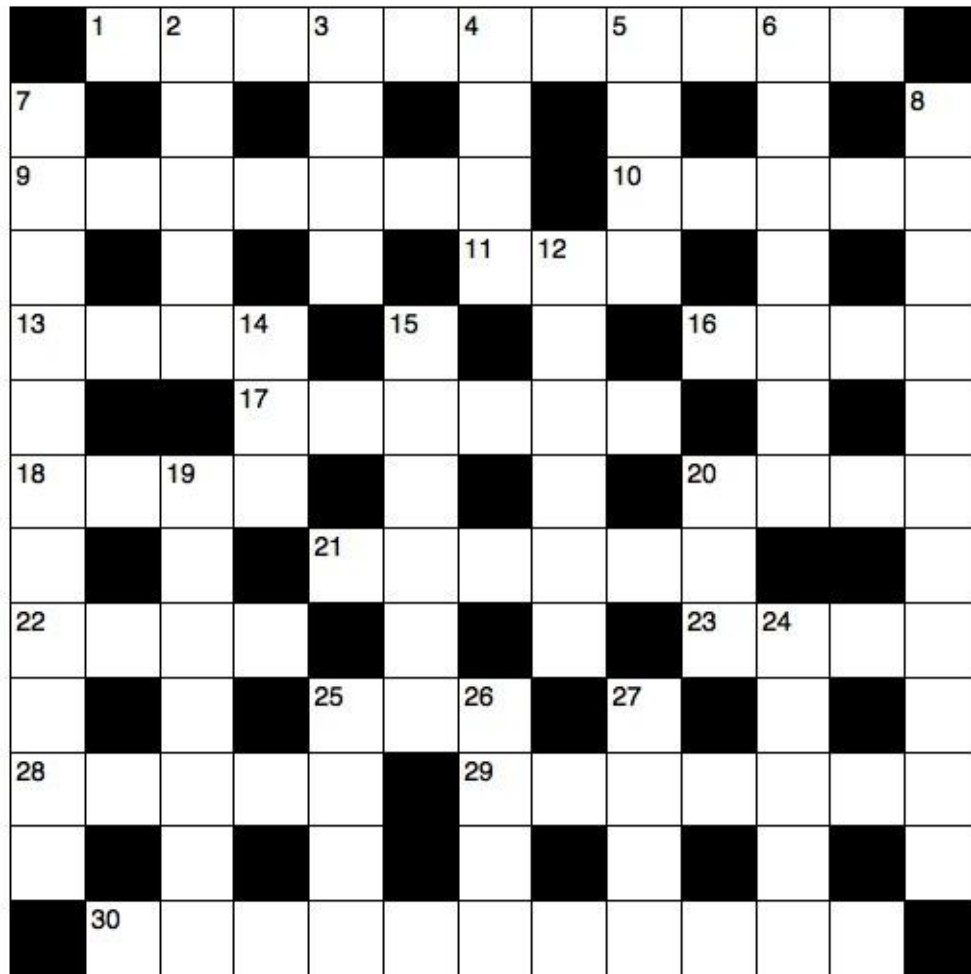
- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)

25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)

26 Heroic tale (4)

27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

Solution is on Page 7



Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Chapelton & District Probus Club

Our guest speaker on 8th October was Dennis Ashton. Dennis had very recently been appointed MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for services to Astronomy, Education and to Charity. Dennis' talk on Iditarod was about an amazing sled race which takes place annually in Alaska. Starting in 1973, the race involves a race over many days and covering a length of 938 miles (1,510 km). With temperatures down to -73°C, this is a very serious activity and Dennis and his wife have visited the race on at least 5 occasions, becoming quite well known by the Alaskan people. Known as the Greatest Race on Earth, Dennis illustrated his talk with videos and music – thoroughly entertaining and very unusual.



Our next speaker on 12th November will be Alan Hancock with the first of two talks on Jack the Ripper.

Our visits for 2026 are being organised and are likely to include the AVRO aircraft museum in Manchester, the JCB factory in Uttoxeter, with possible trips with an overnight stay to Portsmouth Royal Naval Dockyards and the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh. More detail in early 2026.

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):-

12th November – Alan Hancock – Jack the Ripper, Part 1.

10th December – Alan Hancock – Jack the Ripper, Part 2.

14th January – Stephen Gay – Sheffield to Cleethorpes Part 1

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

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

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Remembrance

In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

By Megan Carter

Afflictions

To follow Christ is not as easy
As strolling in a sunlit park;
The Christian walk is less than breezy
When evil hunts you like a shark!

The devil, Satan, will ensnare you
Tempting you with golden lies.
Do not let his demons scare you
Nor his temptings hypnotise.

When his servants sore afflict you
Burning you with bitter pain,
Persecutions may constrict you
But we see the greater gain!

They who do the devil's defaming
Suddenly will see their fate –
Jesus comes with angels flaming
Satan's lies revealed – too late!

For the King will come in glory
Ev'ry knee to Him must bow!
All then see the real story –
He who died the victor now!

By Nigel Beeton

Christ the King -

(Luke 23:32-43)

Scoffers at the Skull Place
Pouring scorn
On Christ the King.
Criminals and soldiers mock
As the shock of the nails
Pierce and penetrate
The hope of a people,
On the whole,
Far away,
A people who don't know about distance.

But one far-off one
Comes close,
Reaches for the kingdom
As he shares
The cross crisis,
As he cries
In self-recognition,
In God-recognition,
In longing,
In hanging
In the company of the King,

“Jesus, remember me,
Please,
If you will,
Remember me.”

And Jesus said, “Today...”

By Daphne Kitching

The Compassing of God

The compassing of God and of His right hand
Round my form and frame, protecting may it stand;
High King's compassing and grace of Trinity
Round me abiding ever eternally,
Round me abiding ever eternally.

The Three's compassing my shield in my life-means,
The Three's compassing my shield through this
day's scenes,
The Three's compassing my shield this night
throughout,
From hate, from harm, from act, from evil about,
From hate, from harm, from act, from evil
about.

An ancient Celtic prayer

Violence towards Christians increases around the world

Whether it is in tightly controlled autocratic states, or in countries that are unstable due to weak government or civil war, persecution is on the rise: targeting of Christian communities, destruction of lives, homes and churches, and immense pressure on believers. **Open Doors reports on trends of violence against the Persecuted Church.**

Just some examples include:

Continued violence across Sub-Saharan Africa

Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have seen a rise in violence. Currently, eight of the top ten deadliest places for Christians are in Sub-Saharan Africa - and all of them (except Nigeria) have more faith-based killings than they did during 2024.

Chronic government instability has created an environment where Islamic militants can use the chaos as cover for their attacks on Christians. Many Christians have been forced from their homes. Of 34.5 million displaced people across Sub-Saharan Africa, around 16.2 million are Christians.

The Open Doors Arise Africa campaign is a response to the overwhelming violence against Christians in the region. It relies on the prayers and support of Christians around the world to stand with the African church.

Middle East – where the church is being driven out, or driven underground

Christians in the Middle East are being driven into isolation and decline. After more than a decade of war, the church in Syria has diminished significantly. Emigration is actively changing the church from an ancient, large minority population to a much smaller, more endangered Christian community.

Following the Israeli-Hamas war that began in October 2023, Christian communities in Gaza and the West Bank have come to the brink of extinction. In Gaza, at least 33 Christians were killed, and most houses destroyed during the violence. Many Christian families have moved abroad or are trying to leave.

China

Unregistered churches, once tolerated by the government, are now considered illegal as authorities enforce regulations. State-approved churches are under stronger ideological pressure and new laws send pastors into indoctrination sessions, where they are urged to preach accordingly. Smaller congregations are either forced to merge into a larger church that is easier to control, or to take their fellowships underground, into isolated home groups.

This report is adapted from Open Doors at:

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/persecution-trends/>

Open Doors Arise Africa:

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/getinvolved/arise-africa/>

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 - Chloe Beevers
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
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Ecclesfield Cubs

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

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Contact Shane Porteous
shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
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Leader - Bryony Hemming
25theecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com

The Grenoside Singers

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Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 0782 411 2584
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Chapelton 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
chapelton.probus@gmail.com
We are now face to face see
www.chapelton-probus.org.uk

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



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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: Irene Proctor	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	246 0373
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
2nd November	All Saints	White or Red
9th November	21st Sunday after Trinity	Green
16th November	22nd Sunday after Trinity	Green
23rd November	23rd Sunday after Trinity	Green
30th November	1st Sunday of Advent	Purple



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