

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

We begin the month on Sunday 1st March, which is the first day of meteorological Spring! After the 10 am Eucharist we have Baptisms at 12 noon.

The Lent Course continues with Session 2 on Monday 2nd March, 2.30pm at St Mark's. The PCC will meet in Church at 7.30pm.

On Wednesday 4th March The Seeking Heart, Contemplative Prayer & Meditation for all meets in Church at 6pm, followed at 7.30pm by the Lent Course session 2.

On Monday 9th March Lent Course Session 3 is at St Mark's at 2.30pm.

The Bible Study Group will meet on Tuesday 10th March 2pm, Venue TBC.

On Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm the Lent Course session 3 will be at St Mary's.

Saturday 14th March, 9am Prayer Breakfast followed at 10.30am by the Bereavement Cafe.

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday, 10am Prayer & Praise, 6.30pm Eucharist.

Monday 16th March Lent Course Session 4 is at St Mark's at 2.30pm, and at 5.30pm The Feoffees meet in Church.

Wednesday 18th March, 9am Coit Primary School visit to Church with St John's Chapelton. The Seeking Heart, Contemplative Prayer & Meditation for all meets in Church at 6pm, followed at 7.30pm by the Lent Course session 4.

On Thursday 19th March, after the Mid-week Communion (9.30am) there will be a service at the Nightingale Nursing Home at 10.30am.

Sunday 22nd March Passion Sunday, 10am Eucharist.

Monday 23rd March, Lent Course Session 5 is at St Mark's at 2.30pm.

Tuesday 24th March, 8.30am KS 2 Easter assembly at Ecclesfield Primary School. 1.45pm KS1 Easter Assembly in Church.
4pm Fabric Team Meeting.

Wed 25th March 7.30pm Lent Course session 5.

Sunday 29th March is Palm Sunday - Holy Week begins with the Palm Sunday service at 10am

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

Front Cover – Not quite yet an Easter Bunny

Back Cover – Architectural Sketch © 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.

bacp
collective mark



Registered Member **91910**
MBACP (Accred)

Email: kate-guest@talktalk.net

Mobile: 07914 357839

God in The Arts - Pt 3

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Revd Michael Burgess begins at the Church Door....

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – railings and kneelers

This month we visit St Nicholas’ Church, Compton in Surrey. It is a very fine building with an unusual double sanctuary on two floors at the east end.

Our eyes look up to see a gallery and an altar, and then at ground level is another altar surrounded by a glorious Norman arch with Jacobean railings and kneelers. As we enter this church, we realise with T S Eliot in *Little Gidding* that we are here ‘to kneel where prayer has been valid.’

With the liturgical reform of the last century, it is customary in many churches to stand to receive Holy Communion. Sitting and standing seem the norms now for worship, in spite of all the beautifully embroidered kneelers that many churches boast. But open the *Book of Common Prayer*, and there is a multitude of rubrics on kneeling, whenever people gather for services. It is a posture that takes us back to those vivid images of Jesus praying on His knees in St Luke’s Gospel, Peter kneeling to pray in Lydda, and the people kneeling on the beach with Paul in Acts 21.



© Colin Smith / St Nicholas, Compton / Wikimedia Commons.

The Psalmist invites us to kneel before the Lord our Maker, and Paul wrote to the Philippians, ‘At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.’ As we kneel at the Jacobean railings of St Nicholas, Compton or in our own churches, we are heirs to that tradition.

Cranmer in the Prayer Book said that kneeling was a sign of gratitude for benefits received. But it is more than that. Buildings like Compton church bring us to our knees quite naturally as we gaze and wonder at the beauty and majesty of the building. Kneeling is a sign of reverence and adoration of the God who inspired such architecture of old and who feeds us now in the sacraments.

St Mary’s Ecclesfield & St Mark’s Grenoside

Lent Course 2026

Exploring the Bible through Icons

The groups will meet at St Mark’s on Monday afternoons 2.30 - 4pm

and at St Mary’s on Wednesday evenings 7.30 - 9pm

All are welcome. For more information please speak to Tim

From the Registers

Funerals

Thursday 26th February

Frank Mathers

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

150 Years of Mothers Union

In 1876 Mother's Union was founded by Mary Elizabeth Sumner in the Church of England parish of Old Alresford, Hampshire where her husband was Rector. When Mary's first grandchild was born she remembered her own difficulties when she was first a mother and wanted to bring mothers of all social classes together for support for one another.

In 1888 Mary gave a speech to Portsmouth Church Congress many women that attended were inspired to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups. Over time M.U. became embedded in their communities They made links into their local communities and the Anglican church. They supported each other whilst sharing concerns for disadvantaged women and wider social issues,

By 1892 membership had reached 60,000 in 28 dioceses, which by the end of the century had reached 169,000, In 1893 Annual General Meeting were organised and in 1896 Mother's Union Central Council was formed. In 1909 M.U. becomes Britain's largest voluntary organisation for women. 1930 the First Worldwide Council was held in London with 200 attendees and 15 international representatives. On November 3rd. 1937 the first M.U. meeting was held here in Ecclesfield.

Mother's Union continues to be active with over 4 million members in 84 countries working with people of all faiths and none .We support communities worldwide by prayer and faith in action.

There will be various activities to celebrate 150 years of an amazing organisation, in March a time capsule will arrive in our deanery. Watch this space for more information...

Here in Ecclesfield we meet in the Gatty Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, you would be most welcome to join us.

Sheffield MU 150th Anniversary Prayer – For the "MU 150 Time Capsule"

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this joyful time of celebration, as we draw inspiration from our founder, Mary Sumner.

As we meet in your name, we pray for the vision, guidance and strength of your Holy Spirit, that we may be empowered to serve. Especially we offer you our prayers for all the families of our Diocese and for all who are affected by violence or any particular kind of need.

Stir up, we pray, the gifts of all our members in the Diocese of Sheffield.

Help us to commit ourselves afresh to serve the people who most need our care, and to work for an increase in numbers and in faith.

Together with our sisters and brothers in this land and throughout the world, may we glorify your name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The "MU 150 Time Capsule" refers to a commemorative project by the Mothers' Union (MU) to celebrate the organization's 150th anniversary in 2026. The capsule is designed to travel across various regions, collecting items and prayers that reflect the lives and work of Mothers' Union members globally.

Prayer for the Month

**Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The month of March this year takes through the season of Lent. Lent began on the last Sunday of February, and it ends on Palm Sunday, 29th March, when we enter Holy Week.

Most of us think of Lent as being all about giving up something, usually something that we enjoy -it might be chocolate or alcohol. But Lent is not some sort of season of sacred dieting or de-tox!

The word 'temptation' has acquired almost comic overtones in recent decades; we associate it with 'naughty but nice.' What the word really refers to are the things that test us, the things that draw us away from our true and better selves.

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert (see Matthew 4:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13), it was a questioning of His very self. Would He live by trust in God and God's call, or would He live life for Himself. The temptation was to live independently of God, to avoid the Cross.

In Lent we take the opportunity to look seriously and honestly at our lives and our priorities. What are the actions or attitudes which deny the deep truth of who I am, namely a child of God filled with the light of Christ (see John 1:9) called to recognise the face of Jesus in others, especially those in need (see Matthew 25:31-end)?

Once we can see something that is hindering us from following Christ, then we know where we have to begin in our struggle against "the world, the flesh and the devil." In a culture which sees self-restraint or self-denial as strange and wrong Lent can be very counter-cultural!

Christ calls us to follow Him, it is a call to take up our cross and walk with Him. His way, the way of the Cross, is the way to true peace and fulfilment. It is the to live more and more as a true child of God, made in God's image and made for God for eternity.

In Lent we may well have to give up things or ways of living and thinking to which we are very attached. It will be a struggle, a path of self-denial, but it is our false self that we have to deny. As someone once said, we are called to surrender things that we cannot keep in order to gain what we cannot lose!

May God grant you a holy and life transforming Lent.

God bless,
Tim.

The Seeking Heart

Introducing Contemplative Prayer for all Meeting in St Mary's at 6pm on the first and third Wednesday every month. For more information see Tim. All welcome



Andrew Jones

Acupuncture & Deep Tissue Massage

Treating all types of pain, stress and discomfort

Kinetic Clinic

Mob: 07538 065665

46 Stocks Hill



andrewjoneshealth@gmail.com

Ecclesfield

www.acupunctureandmassage.net

S35 9YT



British
Acupuncture
Council Member



Harder working health cover

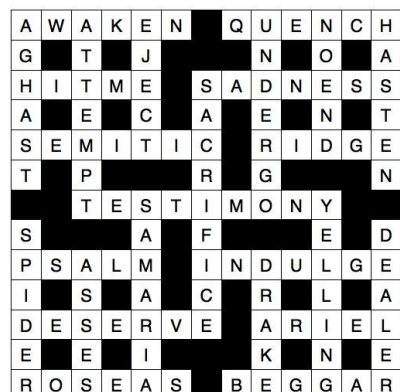
THE GATTY MEMORIAL HALL

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY VENUE FOR GROUPS,
MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS

PRIORY ROAD, ECCLESFIELD, SHEFFIELD S35 9XY

CONTACT US ON 0780 307 8223

Crossword
Puzzle
Solution is
here



The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a seven-part series. This will run until the July issue.

Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one. (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at *anger* (or *wrath*).

It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: *'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.'* (Matt 5:22).

Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such *righteous anger* is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance.

However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: *'In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.'* (Ephesians 4:26,27). What practical steps can we take to do this?

Acknowledge your anger: What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings, like fear, inadequacy or the desire to control.

Control your anger: Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19,20).

Seek to forgive: Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or holding grudges, will enable us to overcome anger: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.'* (Colossians 3:12,13). Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.

'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing' (Will Rogers)

Peaceful mind in Lent

Lent is a time of prayer and inward reflection, when we take stock of where we are with God...with this in mind, the following may be helpful.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." *Matthew 11: 28-30.*

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." *James 1:12*

Reflecting Faith: Togetherness

The Revd Dr Jo White considers...

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; soon we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Such a relatively short time for so great a distance. I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life.

It's all about togetherness. Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' Church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally it will be a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

This month

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging.

We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows. It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Eastertide!

Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

St James the Least of All

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

On how to run a church council meeting

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.
4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.
5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Present

For the elderly minister's 75th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit.

He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, saying: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

Coffee Shop

at St Mary's Church

Every Tuesday and Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

All Welcome – Free Internet Wi-Fi - Disabled friendly access

A. J. Hurdley - Opticians

NHS and Private Eye Examinations

Spectacles at Sensible Prices

125 High Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9UA

☎ 0114 246 8127

Transitions[®]
ADAPTIVE LENSES

enquiries@ajhurdleyopticians.co.uk



Care *starts* at home

At Home Instead, we're **experts** in providing care in your own home:

- Home Help
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- Live-in Care
- Respite Care
- Healthcare at Home

"I have been with Home Instead for 15 years - every carer I have had has been a gem.

They have never let me down - highly recommend."

J. Oakland, Client

Speak with a local, friendly advisor today

0114 246 9666

www.homeinstead.co.uk/sheffield-north
Chapeltown, Sheffield, S35 2XQ

Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2026 – as it celebrates 40 years

Throughout the month of March, the end-of-life charity Marie Curie will be holding its annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.

There's only one chance to give someone the best possible end of life.

And one chance for you to help give care that makes all that possible. Care that protects someone's dignity – instead of leaving them alone or in pain. This Great Daffodil Appeal is that chance.

Now in its 40th year, the appeal raises vital funds to help Marie Curie provide end of life care and support in homes, hospitals and hospices across the UK. By donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

Whether it's taking part in a fundraising challenge, organising a bake sale or volunteering your time to collect donations, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

The Great Daffodil Appeal only happens once a year. This is your chance to make it count. For information and to donate visit: [Mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](https://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights

The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28th March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20th anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31st March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>



ECCLESFIELD
LIBRARY

Opening Hours for book borrowing & returns:
Mondays 1pm to 4pm
Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 4pm
Saturdays 10am to 12pm

Come and check out the large range of new releases we have available to borrow courtesy of Sheffield City Council

Groups and Activities Now Running in the Library

Little Bears Club	Fridays 10-11:30am
Knit & Natter	Mondays 2-4pm and Wednesdays 12-3pm
Local History Group	Last Monday of the month 2-4pm
Creative Writing Group	First Tuesday of the month from 2.30-4.30pm
Chairobics	Thursdays 11:45 – 12:30pm

We also offer pre booked use of our PC's, printing and photocopying services. Tea & coffee can also be served for a small charge.

*For more details about our events and activities
Call us on 0114 2463615 or follow us on Facebook or Twitter*

**Kip
McGrath™**
Est. 1976
**ENGLISH AND MATHS
TUTORING**

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORING

10

YEARS OF TUTORING

Celebrating a **DECADE** of excellence

Book a free assessment today!

 sheffieldnorth@kipmcgrath.co.uk

 **01142 570777**



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

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible

Jeremiah is described as *'a true, honest, and God-revealing companion for the worst of times.'* (Eugene Peterson). He was a priest from the village of Anathoth, near Jerusalem. His ministry to Judah began in 626 B.C. and continued until after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Jeremiah brought a message of judgment and hope: *'See, I have set you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.'* (1:10).

During Jeremiah's ministry, Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13). They claimed to be God's people, yet they refused to heed God's word by refusing to be corrected and following false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear. Therefore, Jeremiah was the prophet of judgement. He called Judah to repent, but they refused (6:16-17). However, he also brought a message of hope. He preached that they should trust God (9:23-24) and that a faithful remnant would be restored to the land (23:3; 31:7-9).

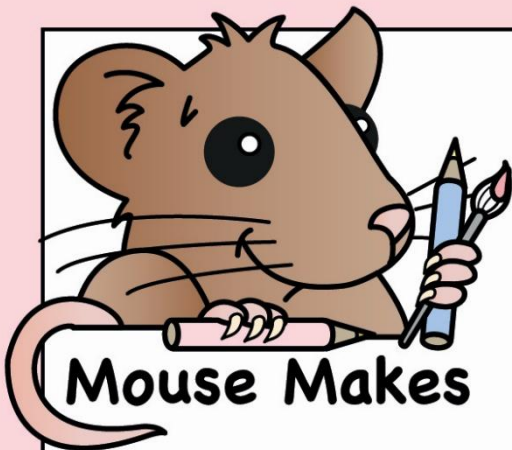
Jeremiah was a reluctant prophet, who felt compelled to speak God's word (20:9). His life was characterised by sorrow, *'O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me.'* (8: 18). His people continually refused to listen to him, rewarding his labour with rejection and persecution.

Much of Jeremiah's message remains relevant today, because we still fall into idolatry, whether it is wealth, talents or social standing. Sin requires repentance and restoration; obedience brings blessings and joy with it. However, Jeremiah also points to Christ, as the one who makes this possible. He showed great compassion for His people and shed tears for them. He suffered their ingratitude, but still forgave them.

Afternoon tea, anyone?

Do you take afternoon tea? Ever wondered where it started? The custom seems to date back to the mid-19th century, and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell. The Duchess got hungry at about 4pm each day, calling it "that sinking feeling". As it was still four hours until dinner (at 8pm), she began to have sandwiches or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was marvellous, and the idea spread quickly through (hungry) upper class circles.

Soon, it seems, everyone in England was looking forward to Afternoon Tea, and a great British tradition was born. Though, during the last century, the sandwiches and cake gave way to biscuits, still we reached for the teapot each afternoon. Not so much anymore, it seems. In the last five years, sales of tea and biscuits have dropped. Perhaps we are drinking coffee? The research was done by retail analysts Mintel.

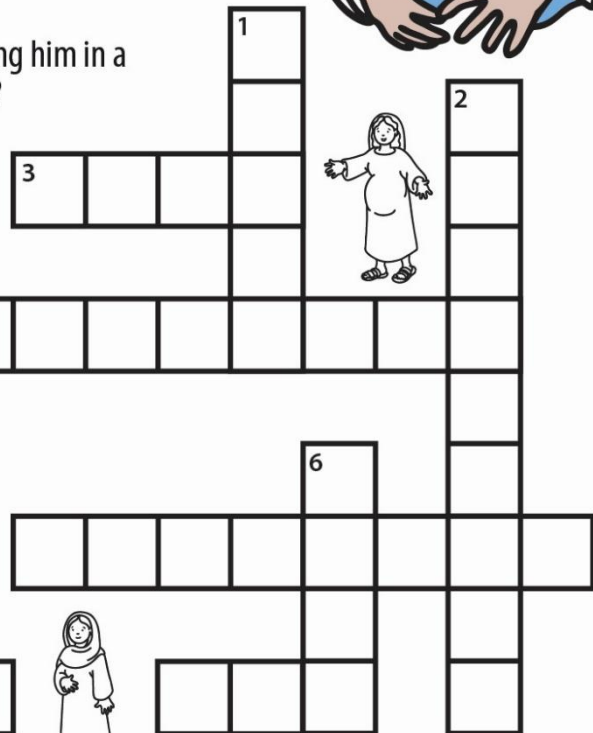


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3
and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

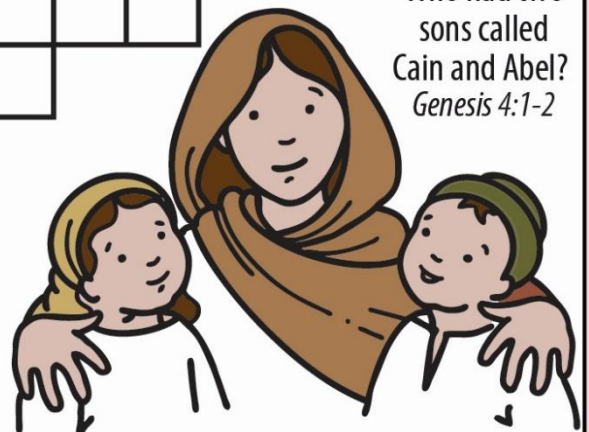
Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



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

A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.



I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding a Month urn

n answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

A tadpole is the larval stage in the biological life cycle of an amphibian. Most tadpoles are fully aquatic, though some species of amphibians have tadpoles that are terrestrial. Tadpoles have some fish-like features that may not be found in adult amphibians, such as a lateral line, gills and swimming tails. As they undergo metamorphosis, they start to develop functional lungs for breathing air, and the diet of tadpoles changes drastically.

A few amphibians, such as some members of the frog family Brevicipitid, undergo direct development – i.e., they do not undergo a free-living larval stage as tadpoles – instead emerging from eggs as fully formed "froglet" miniatures of the adult morphology. Some other species hatch into tadpoles underneath the skin of the female adult or are kept in a pouch until after metamorphosis. Having no hard skeletons, it might be expected that tadpole fossils would not exist. However, traces of biofilms have been preserved and fossil tadpoles have been found dating back to the Middle Jurassic.

Tadpoles are eaten as human food in some parts of the world and are mentioned in various folk tales from around the world.

Update – Sheffield Local Plan

The Government Inspectors have now issued a letter summarising their initial views on the Sheffield Local Plan, ahead of a detailed final report expected in March. Below is an update on the current position.

Background - Cities and other major local authorities are required to have an up-to-date Local Plan outlining how housing and employment land needs will be met. This is particularly important when Green Belt land is included as the plan also outlines where development will not be permitted.

Sheffield’s current Local Plan dates back to 1999, and the city has been under pressure to replace it for many years. Work on a new plan began in 2015, with a document completed in 2021 that was never progressed. A further plan was produced in 2022 and submitted in 2023. This proposed 34,500 new homes and new employment land sites, all on previously developed land (brownfield), scrub land, and small areas of greenfield. There were no Green Belt developments mentioned. Although this plan was accepted by Government, it was never formally signed off before the 2024 General Election.

Inspector Discussions and Green Belt Proposal - Ongoing discussions with Government Inspectors indicated that an additional 3,500 homes and further employment sites would be required. Sheffield City Council planners responded that no suitable land remained other than Green Belt sites. On 14 May 2025, the City Council voted to proceed with proposals that included Green Belt development.

Proposed housing numbers for Chapeltown, Ecclesfield and Grenoside

Site - All Green Belt Sites	Houses
Grenoside/Foxhill Rd/Home Lane Farm	188
Wheel Lane/Middleton Lane/Cinderhill	148
Townend Farm/Wheel Lane/The Wheel/Creswick Lane/Yew Lane	609
Chapeltown Rd/Nether Lane/“Strawberry Fields”	549
Total Houses	1,494

In addition to these, three major sites in Chapeltown are proposed for employment – Hesley Wood, Smithy wood and Warren Lane. Overall, around 40% of the city’s additional housing and nearly 80% of new employment land would be concentrated in the S35 area, which many consider unacceptable given available non-Green Belt alternatives.

In response to this, ‘Save Chapeltown, Ecclesfield and Grenoside Community Group’ formed. By engaging local communities we helped ensure that over 3,600 objections (from across Sheffield) were submitted before public hearings in Autumn 2025. These were followed by a further consultation on additional documents, generating more than 2,500 further responses.

The Inspectors’ most recent letter states that the plan is “legally sound”, with minor changes already discussed in November. These reduce housing numbers at Wheel Lane (to 66) and Townend Farm (to 592), but all other proposals remain.

The full report is still awaited, however, it is now more important than ever that we, as a community, have the funds available to cover legal costs that are already mounting. Donations can be made via our fundraising page, which can be accessed from our website here: <https://www.saveourgreenbelt.net/donations>

If you have any questions about our campaign, or would like to speak to someone about a donation please contact us at: savegandegreenbelt@gmail.com

Save Chapeltown, Ecclesfield and Grenoside Community Group (CEG)

Thought for the Month

Lent is an annual pilgrimage; it is a journey to Good Friday and Easter Day. In Lent we learn once again that at the very heart of our faith is the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ; they cannot be separated without distorting the Christian faith.

The Cross tells us that in Jesus God becomes vulnerable; God becomes the victim of human lies, and betrayal, of jealousy and power politics; there is a sense in which we can say that in Jesus God dies. What the Cross means is that in a very unequal and divided world, a very unjust world, God stands with the victim, the suffering, the forgotten, those who are counted as expendable.

Without the resurrection though, Christianity is just one more tragedy in a broken and suffering world.

The resurrection is hope when all hope has gone, it is the defeat of evil and death; it is the place where all sin and all hatred find judgement and healing and mercy. The empty tomb on Easter Day proclaims that life is stronger than death, that love is greater than evil and that Christ is triumphant over the forces of destruction.

But Easter without Good Friday makes the Christian Faith empty triumphalism.

In Lent we contemplate both the brokenness of the world and the depth of our own sin; not to punish ourselves nor to lead ourselves into despair, but because we can only know the extent of Christ's victory if we look honestly at the needs of the world and it's people, including ourselves.

This year Holy week begins on the last Sunday in March. On that day we celebrate Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem as its king, and we reflect that by the end of the week, the crowds who welcomed Him are now baying for His blood!

Holy Week is history in the sense that it is a record and a re-telling of events that happened two thousand years ago. But it is more than history. Holy Week, the Cross and the Resurrection, bring hope to our world; hope for each one of us.

On the Cross we know the depth of God's love for us and for His world; and the Risen Christ speaks to us of God's triumph over all that destroys life and joy. The events of Holy Week assure us that there is nothing in all creation that is more powerful than the love of God in Christ Jesus. These events shape our worship and our prayer, they give us strength for our pilgrimage, not just through Lent, but through our lives.

God bless you,

Tim

Local issues

Sheffield Plan for Housing and Employment Community Meetings

CEG have arranged two community meetings so that we can update you on the campaign so far, and the next steps.

These will be on: -

Thursday 5th March 7-8pm - Grenoside Community Centre

Wednesday 11th March 7-8pm - Lady Mabel Hall (Ecclesfield School)

Everyone Welcome

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

How many words does it take?

- Pythagorean Theorem - 24 words
- Lord's Prayer - 66 words
- Archimedes' Principle - 67 words
- Ten Commandments - 179 words
- Shakespeare's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy – 260 words
- Churchill's speech 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches' - 308 words
- US Constitution with all 27 Amendments - 7,818 words
- EU regulations on the sale of cabbages - 26,911 words

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

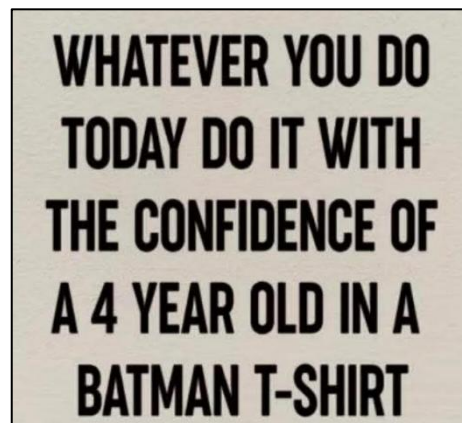
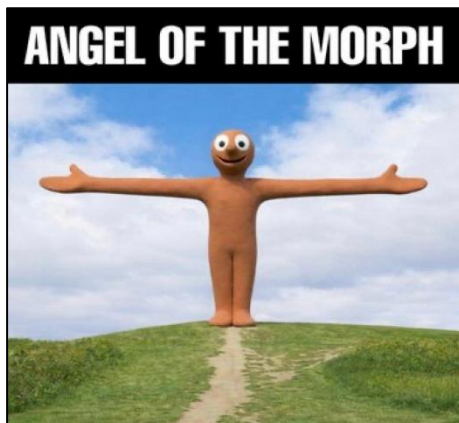
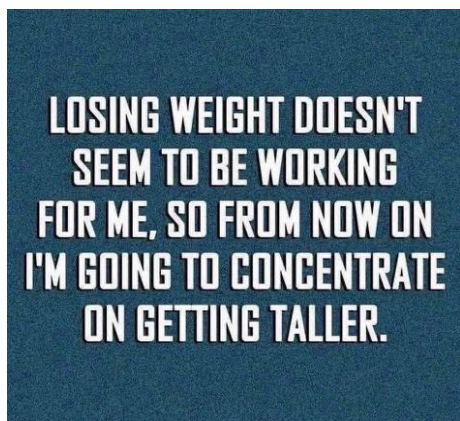
Notes to Myself - Stop spending more money to get free shipping - **Your coffee** is still in the microwave - **Don't** throw the box with the directions away until it's 100% done – **Your glasses** are on top of your head - **Wearing** headphones does not make your farts silent - **Just because** it pops in your head doesn't mean it should come out of your mouth - **Don't** use your phone as a flashlight to look for your phone - **You're never going to remember** to do that thing later. Do it now.

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

Bump - A man was trying to pull out of a parking slot but bashed the bumper of the parked car in front of him. Witnessed by a handful of pedestrians waiting for a bus, the driver got out, inspected the damage, and proceeded to write a note to leave on the windshield of the car he had hit. The note read: "Hello. I have just hit your car, and there are some people here watching me who think that I am writing this note to leave you my name, phone number, and driver's licence number, but I am not."

Who'd be a mother? - Constant nagging didn't seem to provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: "Please leave the bathroom as you found it."

I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called, "Brian, how did you find the bathroom?" After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right



crampton & moore

the tv & appliance people

Specialists in Televisions, Home Cinema, white goods,
domestic appliances and complete kitchens.
Visit our New Rotherham Superstore for demonstrations
and advice from our expert staff.

Online: www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk

In-Store: Poplar Way, Catcliffe, South Yorkshire S60 5TR

Telephone: 01709 919939

LARGE STOCKS – BEST PRICES – 200 SPACE CAR PARK

SAMSUNG BOSCH LG Hisense Hotpoint Haier LIEBHERR NEFF Panasonic SONY

Lynchams Cocker Spaniels & Toy Poodles



Puppies sometimes available
We also have Cockerpoos

Chapelton – Sheffield – South Yorkshire

Phone: 0114 245 5322 - Mobile: 0795 268 8420

Website: www.lyncham9.co.uk - Email: lyncham9@hotmail.com

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



K-Lo Beauty

**** Special Introductory Offers ****

Express Facial (30 minutes)

£25.00

Double cleanse, exfoliation, face mask, tone & moisturise, includes hand and arm massage while the mask is on

Luxury Facial (45 minutes)

£30.00

Double cleanse, exfoliation, face mask, tone, serum and moisturise, includes facial massage, shoulder massage & hand and arm massage

Luxury Back Treatment (45 minutes)

£35.00

Cleanse, exfoliation, mask and relaxing hot towels. Includes back massage and choose between a scalp or back of the leg massage. (Deeply cleanses the skin to help prevent breakouts and leave your back feeling silky smooth)

K-Lo Beauty (located in S35)

E-mail: klobeauty7@gmail.com Mobile: 07940 056706

****£5.00 off any of the above treatments with this voucher****

Children's Society to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show

Children's Society is to have a show garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower show next year, 19th-23rd May 2026.

Designed to spotlight the urgent issue of teenage wellbeing in the UK, 'The Children's Society Garden' has been created by landscape architect Patrick Clarke. It draws inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi - celebrating the beauty in imperfection. This nurturing space will offer a message of hope, safety, and connection for young people facing challenges today.

Morningside Cattery

Breeders of Birman Cats

Fully Heated Chalets, All Diets & Medication Catered For
Insurance on Request - Pickup & Drop Off service - Cat sitting in your own home

Chapelton Road, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9WD

Tel: **0114 246 0202** Mob: **0771 122 6130**

www.morningsidecattery.com



The Gardening Year – March

Whether you are growing in containers or on the allotment or garden, March is the start of the growing season. If the weather is fine you can rake a bed ready for onion sets. Over the years I have grown many types of onion sets but the best I have ever grown is one called Centurion, I have grown it for the last 3 years and never had one go to seed. Also you can prepare the ground for seed potatoes, if you are growing in containers the best variety to grow is one called Swift, it's an early one but the tops only grow to about 1 foot, ideal for growing in pots.

To grow a crop of early Brussel sprouts at the end of the month prepare a seed bed to provide plants for setting out by the beginning of May. Salad crops, select a sheltered moisture retentive site to grow salad onions (White Lisbon) or lettuce all the year round or (Webbs wonderful) and radishes (French Breakfast) or (Scarlet Globe) sow all these seeds half inch deep in drills 12 inch apart, first dressing the soil with general fertiliser at 3 ounces per square yard. Sow the seeds sparingly to reduce the work of thinning the seedlings. All these salad crops are ideal to grow in pots or containers. Heather compares with more aristocratic garden plants, heathers have a refreshingly natural quality, they are hardy, easy to grow and entail little work.

By planting several species, flowers can be obtained throughout most of the year, even during the winter. plant clear of trees heathers can be planted during the spring from March until May, and in the autumn during October and November. Select an open position, well clear of overhanging trees, for all except lime tolerant species it is essential to plant in acid or neutral soil. Dig the ground thoroughly, removing the roots of perineal weeds and adding a dressing of ericaceous compost at least 2 inch thick, forking into the top 2 inch of soil.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – March

Vegetables - Cauliflower, Kale, Leeks, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Spinach, Spring Onions, Swede, Wild Nettles

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

Fish - Cockles, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mussels, **Oysters**, Red Mullet, Salmon, Shrimp, Whitebait, Winkles

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

Why Eat the Seasons?

There are a number of good reasons to eat more local, seasonal food:

- to reduce the energy (and associated CO2 emissions) needed to grow and transport the food we eat
- to avoid paying a premium for food that is scarcer or has travelled a long way
- to support the local economy
- to reconnect with nature's cycles and the passing of time

but, most importantly, because seasonal food is fresher and so tends to be tastier and more nutritious

ERIC EYRE

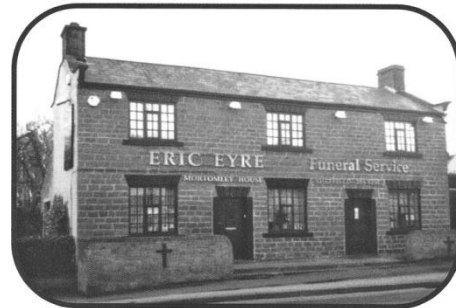
Funeral Services

... over 60 years of personal service

- A fully qualified privately owned & Independent Family Funeral Service.
- Offering a caring & dignified service, private rest rooms, coffin selection, floral tributes & memorials.
- Catering available on request in our own reception rooms or the venue of your choice.
- Pre - Payment Funeral Plans Available.

The Funeral Home
Mortomley House
2 & 4 Mortomley Lane
High Green
☎ 0114 284 8202

826 Barnsley Road
Sheffield Lane Top
☎ 0114 327 1720
34 Housley Park
Chapelton



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



British Institute of Funeral Directors Eric Eyre National President
1989 - 1990



Time to Eat - Oysters

Eating raw oysters is a uniquely invigorating experience; a bit like battery-licking for grown-ups. It seems that we can taste the elements they contain zinc, calcium, copper, iodine, magnesium. And no other food conjures up a physical feature of the Earth as strongly as a bracing, salty, tangy oyster: the essence of the sea in edible form. Oysters can now be obtained throughout the year but are usually better outside of their spawning period (when the waters are colder).



For much of recorded history they have been regarded a simple form of sustenance, punctuated by occasional periods in which they reached the status of delicacy. In Britain they shifted from stomach-filler to luxury food with the arrival of the Romans, largely disappeared from the diet after they left, before returning to favour sometime around the eight century. By Victorian times, pickled oysters were a common food of the poor in London (and in the American South in the early twentieth century the Po-Boy, a type of sandwich featuring oysters in a baguette, fuelled blue collar workers). The era of cheap oysters came to an end quite abruptly after oyster beds became exhausted due to overfishing and pollution.

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

Use - Oysters should be stored at a low temperature and smell briny fresh. The shells should be clean, bright, tightly closed and unbroken. Size, shape and flavour vary considerably. The best from British and Irish waters are considered to be those from Colchester, Whitstable, the Helford and Galway. Natives are pricier and generally thought of as the superior oyster - don't bother using them for cooked dishes. Pacific or rock oysters tend to have a frillier shell and smaller, milder meat. Oysters are high in protein and low in fat. They are rich in zinc and contain many other minerals such as calcium, iron, copper, iodine, magnesium and selenium.

Use - unopened (live) oysters can be kept in the fridge, covered in wet kitchen towels, for two or three days - keep a check on them and discard any that open. Do not store in an airtight container, or under fresh water, as this will cause them to die. Shucked oysters can be kept refrigerated in a sealed container for two or three days. They can also be frozen (previously frozen oysters are better for cooking than eating raw).

Ask your fish seller to open your oysters, retaining the shells (if required) and liquor. If you really want to shuck your own, hold an oyster (deeper shell down) in a hand protected with a work glove or wrapped tea towel. Insert an oyster knife (or wide, short screwdriver) between the two halves of the shell and gradually prise apart, working your way around to the hinge and saving as much liquor as possible. Discard any oysters that are dry or do not smell fresh.

Raw oysters are best with a squeeze of lemon and a glass of Guinness. A drop of Tabasco sauce can be added if desired. Cooking oysters can temper the salty tang and intensify the creaminess of the flavour. Grilling or poaching produce great results in many recipes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/oyster>

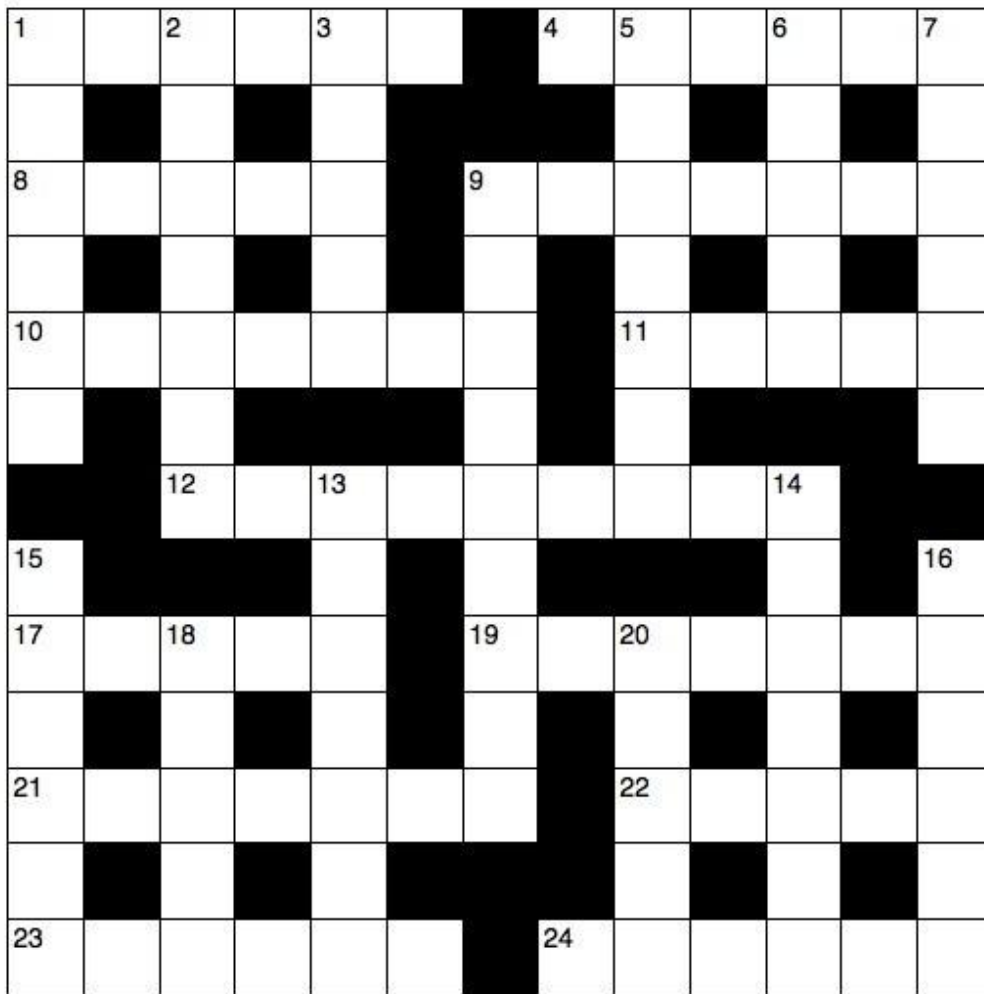
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



Prayer for March 2026 - *By Daphne Kitching*

(based on Jn3:21, Jn 14:6, Jn 8:12, Jn 16:33, Heb 13:5)

Lord, In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that, ***whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.***

Jesus says he is ***the Truth***. He also says he is the ***Light of the world***.

Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that he has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us - we can live by the real Truth - and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us.

Thank you so much.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

Chapelton & District Probus Club



Following the visit of Stephen Gay at our January meeting with his wonderfully detailed story and pictures of the trip from Sheffield to Cleethorpes by train, we welcomed him back in February to continue the journey to Cleethorpes. His story, illustrated with excellent slides of all the stations, many now closed, included huge signal boxes and railway architecture, much of it no longer there such as a railway inn with a picture on the pub sign of an unusual locomotive only ever used in the West Country down to Devon and Cornwall. Pub and sign now demolished and replaced with houses. However, the big question, did we actually reach Cleethorpes? The answer is NO – we got about as far as Barnetby. So a future talk is likely to be entitled, Arriving at Cleethorpes!

Our first trip of the New Year will be to the AVRO museum in Manchester on Thursday 19th March. We look forward to the fascinating history of the famous aircraft company which designed and manufactured the Lancaster Bomber and only ten years later, the Vulcan Bomber. The trip will include a visit to Bramall Hall in Stockport, the famous Tudor Manor House with 70 acres of gardens. The places are now full as I write but if you really want to join us, please make contact and we can add you to a waiting list if anyone is unable to make the trip – which is not that unusual!

The next meeting will be our Annual Meeting where some responsibilities change and we will give our thanks to Peter McDermott who has been an excellent Chair and welcome back Robert Woodhead for his second season in the Chair.

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 contact the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below). Upcoming meetings on Wednesday at 10.00 in Grenoside Community Centre (followed by optional lunch at Wortley Hall) :-

11th March – AGM and Quiz

8th April – Tim Forman – Anecdotes from an extraordinary life (so far)

13th May – Mike Ogden - Skyscrapers

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

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

Andrew Robinson

Hilltop Gardening

A family run business for more than 20 years

Regular garden maintenance, bespoke planning and planting schemes

RHS Trained - No job is too small

For a tidy and reliable service contact James

t. 07961 971400

e. james.hilltopgardening@gmail.com



The mystery of suffering

Why is there suffering, who can know
When all is well and free from strife?
Job also thought upon these things
Then tragedy struck, upturning his life.

A curtain in heaven was drawn aside,
A spiritual battle was all around
Bringing death, destruction, sickness and woe
As Satan attempted to bring Job down.

Job's friends arrived to sit and pray,
To fathom out the reason why,
But all their wisdom came to nought,
Even his wife said: 'curse God and die'.

Unseen forces inhabit our world,
But God is faithful, His word is true,
Hold fast to God, He never fails
For God in Christ will see us through.

By Megan Carter

Winter and Spring

Lord, end my winter, and let my spring begin. I cannot with all my longings raise my soul out of her death and dullness, but all things are possible with Thee. I need celestial influences, the clear shinings of Thy love, the beams of Thy grace, the light of thy countenance; these are the Pleiades to me. I suffer much from sin and temptation, these are my wintry signs, my terrible Orion. Lord, work wonders in me, and for me.

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon 1834 – 1892

A prayer as Lent continues

Let me hold fast to You, beautiful Lord, whom the angels themselves yearn to look upon. Wherever You go, I will follow You. If You pass through fire, I will not flinch, I fear no evil when You are with me. You carry my griefs, because You grieve for my sake. You passed through the narrow doorway from death to life, to make it wide enough for all to follow. Nothing can ever now separate me from Your love.

By Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 -1153

The Song of the Spirit

O when Your Spirit softly sings
Within our hearts of stone
Lord, speak to us of godly things
And make our hearts Your home.

Sometimes our doubts like briars grow
Sometimes our faith is weak,
O Spirit, sing, that doubt may go,
Lord, help us hear You speak.

Transform us through Your Spirit's voice
And set our hearts alight,
So truly may our hearts rejoice
And shine with Godly light.

For those who hear the Spirit's song,
Are filled then with His power!
Their light shall shine the whole day long
And praise fills ev'ry hour!

by Nigel Beeton

Man's desire -

If only I possessed the grace, good Jesus, to be utterly at one with You! Amidst all the variety of worldly things around me, Lord, the only thing I crave is unity with You. You are all my soul needs. Unite, dear friend of my heart, this unique little soul of mine to Your perfect goodness. You are all mine; when shall I be yours? Lord Jesus, my beloved, by the magnet of my heart; clasp, press, unite me for ever to Your sacred heart. You have made Me for yourself; make me one with You. Absorb this tiny drop of life into the ocean of goodness whence it came.

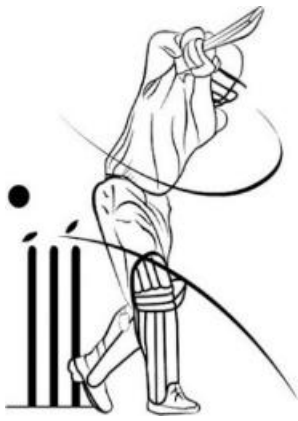
By Francis of Sales 1567 – 1622

The Love that gives love

Jesus Christ, the love that gives love,
You are higher than the highest star;
You are deeper than the deepest sea;
You cherish us as Your own family;
You embrace us as Your own spouse;
You rule over us as Your own subjects;
You welcome us as Your dearest friend.
Let all the world worship You.

By Hildegard of Bingen 1098 – 1179

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



2025 finished with the 1st XI achieving 2nd in the Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League, the 2nd XI 5th in Division 1 and the 3rd XI 9th in Division 6. The League expands in 2026 to 14 Divisions. We finished last year, our 100th in Ecclesfield, with an outstanding Dinner Dance at the OEC with David Gower as guest speaker. 2026 will be the 100th year we have played at Cinder Hill Lane.

With a very dry summer last year, we seem to have had the payback over the past 4 months with very heavy rain and some snow ensuring the whole ground is more than thoroughly watered! Shortly after the season ended last year, the bottom outfield was treated with 40 tons of soil and seed to repair the summer damage and it is looking great.

Over the close season, major improvements have been made to the Pavilion with solar panels and back-up batteries, new LED lighting throughout and various other improvements including an impressive new wall covering (see picture) and improved groundwork around the pavilion. For 2026, we will miss Biswick Kapala who has moved to play for Tickhill but are pleased that Muhammad Qaisar Ashraf will be staying for another season and we welcome Zain Attique, a wicketkeeper and batter from the Caribbean, Abraham Shahil, a young bowler from Whiston and Nathan Swift, a batter from Warmsworth.



The season starts on 18th April when the 2nd XI will be playing Wickersley 2nd XI and the 1st XI will be away at Wickersley. There will be a get-ready day on Saturday 4th April at 10.00 where all help on site will be welcome.

Contact: - whitleyhall@yc-spl.co.uk whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Andrew Robinson

Dog walkers now face unlimited fines if pets chase livestock

As of the 18th of this month, The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 will become law for England and Wales.

This means that police officers can seize dogs which pose a risk of repeated attacks on farm animals. It also means that dog walkers now face unlimited fines if their pets chase livestock.

Up until now, the maximum fine for worrying sheep, cattle and poultry was £1,000. But the fine is now unlimited, and also now protects llamas and alpacas.

Baroness Coffey, the Conservative former deputy prime minister, said the change was necessary. "Livestock worrying has devastating consequences, both for animals and farmers, and it can be horrific, causing brutal injuries that are tragically often fatal," she said.

Rachel Hallos, National Farmers' Union (NFU) vice-president, hailed the rule changes as "a huge step forward. This legislation will act as a real deterrent and will make a real difference to farmers and their livestock."

Farm animals worth an estimated £2.4 million were severely injured or killed by dogs in 2023, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, according to figures from the insurer NFU Mutual.

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
Tel: Robert 0771 481 3503

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

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

Ecclesfield Cubs

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

Ecclesfield Beavers

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

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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

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



	E-mail:	Phone:
<u>Vicar:</u> Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
Church Wardens Ann Hackett Michael Waldron		
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: Elaine Heeley	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	07946 823284
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
1 st March	The Second Sunday in Lent	Purple
8 th March	The Third Sunday in Lent	Purple
15 th March	The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday)	Purple
22 nd March	The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)	Purple
29 th March	The Sunday Next before Easter (Palm Sunday)	Purple



Support St. Mary's by donating today



Donate Now

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone and donate using your Debit or Credit Card, Google Pay or Apple Pay

Why your donation counts

Ecclesfield Church does not get any funding from the government or local authority. All its income comes from the generosity of people like yourself who give to support its services and help maintain the building for future generations.

Whether you give regularly or as a 'one-off', you can increase your donation by Gift Aiding it. This allows us to recover the basic rate tax paid on your gift, for every £ 10 you give the government gives another £ 2.50, making your gift worth £ 12.50