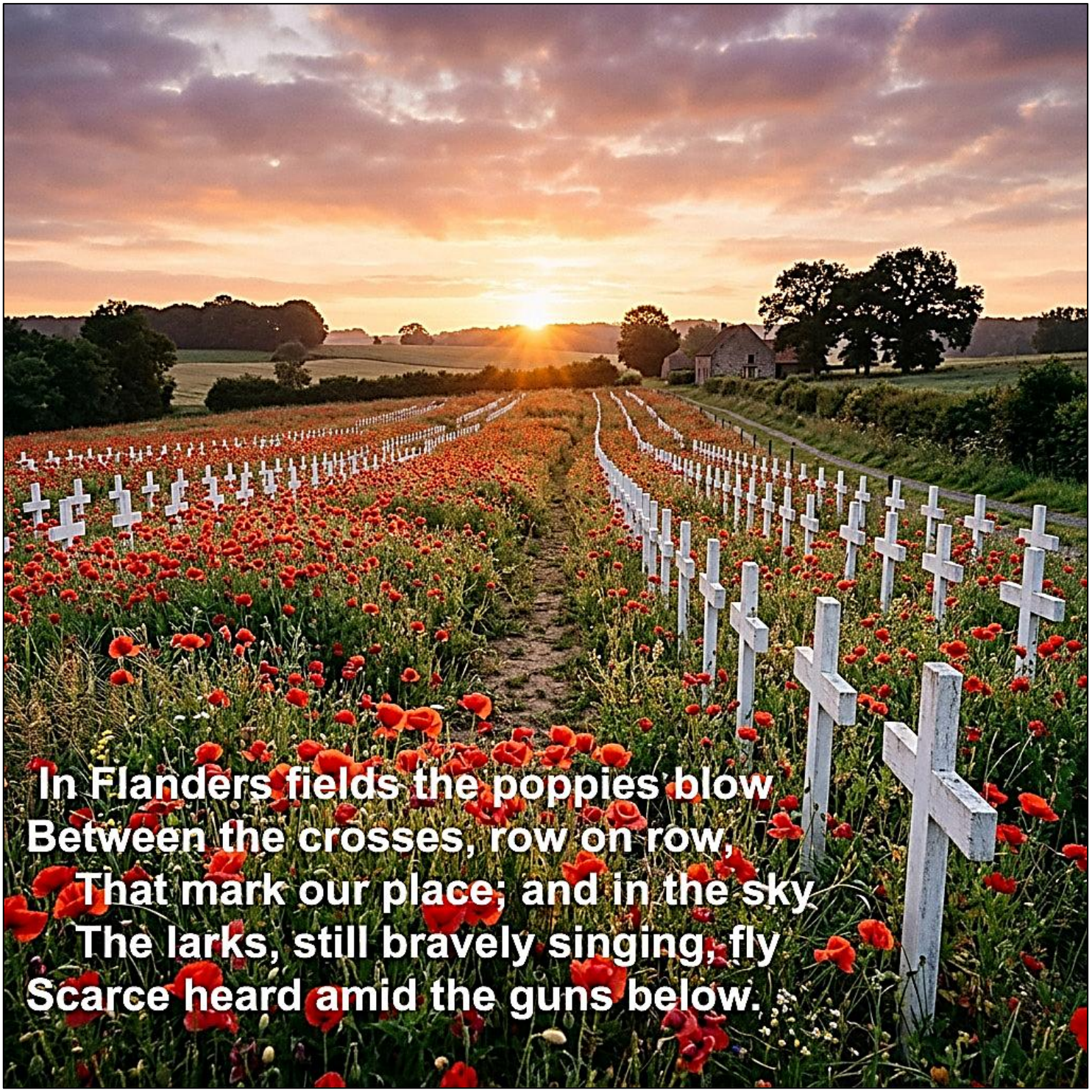
News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine November

stmaryseccleSfield.org.uk

Price 60 p

St Mary's Church Ecclesfield

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 21st November

10am till 2pm

Free Admission to Church

Bell Tower Visits from 12noon

Father Christmas will be visiting too!!

Refreshments - Cake Stall – Christmas Decorations
Toys and Books - Bric-A-Brac
Bottle Stall - Artisan Bags - Baby Gifts
Handmade Cards - Christmas Gifts
Chocolate by Choklet

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First Words

On Sunday 1st November we begin the month with Prayer & Praise for All Saints at 10am. There will be a baptism at 12noon after this service.

Please note that this year the annual memorial service, which is usually on the first Sunday, will be held in January.

Monday 2nd November PCC Meeting in Church.

Sunday 8th November, Remembrance Sunday. The Annual service of Remembrance begins at 10am in Church. We make our way to the Cenotaph by 11am for the Act of Remembrance.

Saturday 14th November 9am Prayer Breakfast, 10.30am Bereavement Cafe.

Wednesday 18th November 7pm, Godly Play exploring the Bible through story & imagination. Led by Judith Nicholson.

Saturday 21st November 10am to 2pm St Mary's Christmas Fayre in Church.

Sunday 29th November, Advent Sunday. 10am Advent Carols, 6.30pm Eucharist.

For more information about these events please speak to Tim.

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Front Cover – Image 'In Flanders Fields' – AI generated
Back Cover – SYPB Concert

Kate Guest

Counselling & Psychotherapy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact me via email or telephone to book an appointment.

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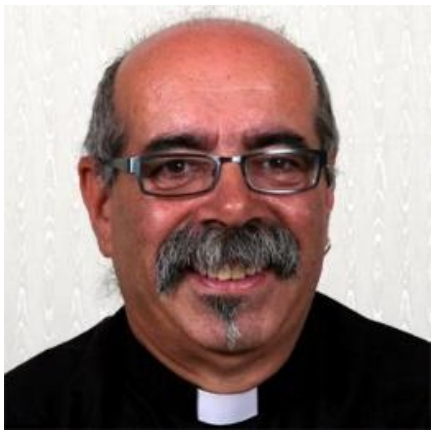
Registered Member **91910**
MBACP (Accred)

Email: kate-guest@talktalk.net
Mobile: 07914 357839

Mothers' Union



We held our September meeting on Wednesday 7 October 2026 in The Gatty Hall.

17 members were present plus 3 visitors. Maureen Lambert read out the notices which included a reminder about Ecclesfield Deanery hosting The Cathedral Coffee Morning on Friday 6 November. Jennifer Armeson, Treasurer, said that next year's subscription would remain as £32.00, payable by the end of January 2027. If anybody wanted to spread the cost, she could facilitate that. Andrea Southern then led us in prayer. We then welcomed our speaker for the afternoon, The Revd John Leach.

John spoke about how his life had been a series of journeys, taking him to various parts of the United Kingdom. He started out in Upminster in Essex, where his father had had a Damascus Road conversion and all the family went on to worship at the local Baptist Church. He then went from there to study Chemistry at York University, but didn't understand it and left after two terms and returned home.

He then got a job with a pharmaceutical company as a driver. During this time John joined a prog rock band! One of his friends suggested that he would make a good Anglican Vicar, so he joined the local church, which is where he met Chris! He then spent 3 years at Kings College London and a further year at Durham.

John then became curate at North Walsham in Norfolk and was ordained in Norwich in 1981. From there John and Family moved to St Thomas, Crookes for 4 years, during the time of extraordinary growth for the church, which included the 9 0'clock Service. From there he became Vicar of a church in the next parish to Coventry Cathedral. It was a busy church, but not very spiritual. He was eventually head hunted to lead a charity in Derby, in Anglican Renewal Ministry. After several years that job ended and he had no work, as he had done a driving job in the past John went to work for Ikea as a lorry driver. He had hoped to keep his faith quiet, but was referred to by his boss as Revd Leach.

After that job finished and with nowhere to live the family were offered accommodation in Jersey. Yet another journey. Then 2 ½ years on a job on the bishop's staff at Newport in Wales, before moving on to Folkestone. This was not a happy incumbency, as there were numerous problems with safeguarding that the parish did not acknowledge.

John was then asked to teach theology, his dream job, but unfortunately cancer reared its ugly head and John had 18 hours of surgery and that was followed up with radiology. When he had recovered he moved to Lincoln and took up lecturing in Theology. From there John and Christine moved to Ecclesfield and became highly regarded and loved members of our congregation. John still continues to teach Theology and in January 2025 received his PhD. Well done John.

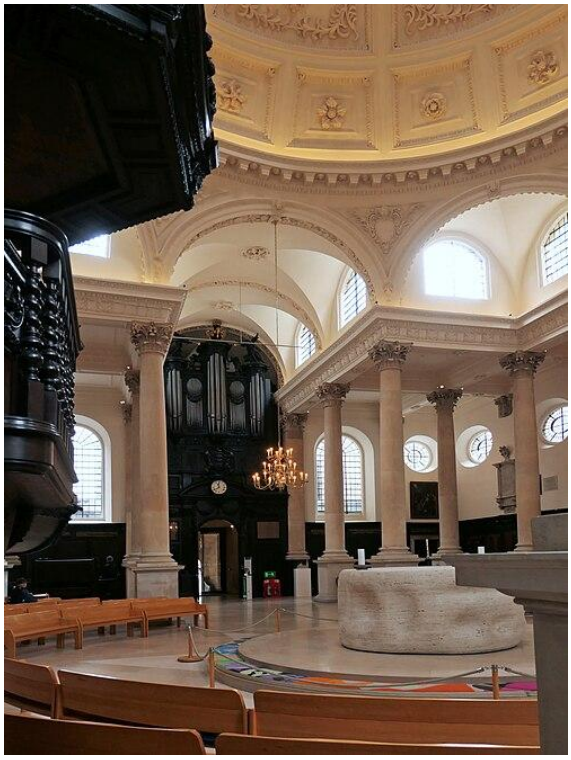
Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4 November 2026 at 1.45pm, when Yvonne Ridgeway is going to tell us about some of the people whose names are on the War Memorial. Everybody is warmly invited to come along and listen.

JA

God in The Arts

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Revd Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church altar.

'He gave us eyes to see them' – the altar



In 'The Temple' the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion.

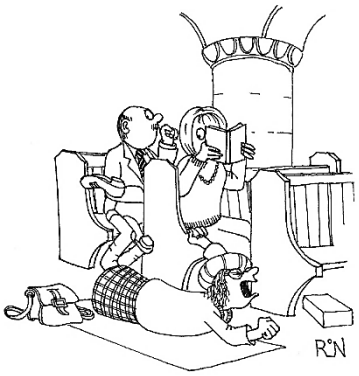
For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ: His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. At the Reformation stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore who began his work 300 years after Sir Christopher Wren designed the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither Wren nor Moore were afraid of innovation and experiment.

As a result, Wren created one of the most beautiful of London churches, famous and admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on 12 columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore's concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

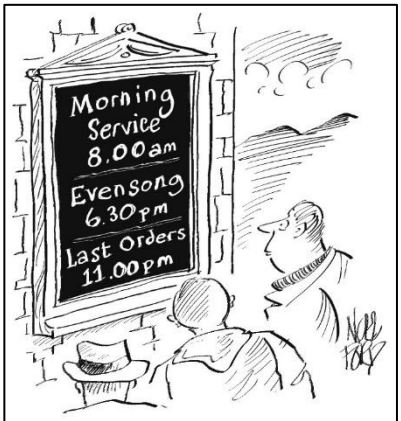
The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still vary over this marriage of stone and building. But it remains as a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

'Photo: amandabhslater, via Wikimedia Commons'



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew

...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!



The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

Prayer for the Month

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.
(*The Collect for Christ the King*)

This year the feast of Christ the king falls on Sunday 22nd November. it is the last Sunday in the Church Calendar, and it draws together the themes of the Church Year.

The feast itself is relatively new in the life of the Church. It was instituted in 1925 in the Roman Catholic Church, and for the past century has come to be celebrated by many other Churches and denominations - including the Church of England.

The feast celebrates Christ's kingship, both now and in the future. It reminds us that He is at the heart of heaven where He has spiritual lordship over the whole creation. It also points to our hope that Christ will return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we celebrate this feast, we are reminded that in Christ Kingship is redefined - He came as the Servant King who gave His life for ours. The Collect for this Sunday picks up a theme in one of St Paul's Letters, Philippians 2:5-11, thought to be part of one of the earliest Christian hymns. In this passage we read that, because Christ came in humility and died in the shame of the Cross, God has exalted him to the highest place in heaven and earth. Paul writes that every knee shall bend before Christ and every tongue confess Him as Lord.

Paul sees the whole of creation united in the worship of the Crucified and risen Christ. He unifies all things, not by force, but by the power of His self-giving love.

For Paul as for Christians in all times and all places, the most powerful force in the universe is the love of God in Christ; it is a love that is greater than death and greater than hatred.

As Christians we look to Jesus as our king, a king crowned with cruel thorns enthroned on a Roman Cross, and all for the love of the world. His love unites us in worship and in thanksgiving. At Christ's throne as at His Cross, we are one.

God bless, Tim.

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "Isn't he the one who moves diagonally?"

Andrew Jones

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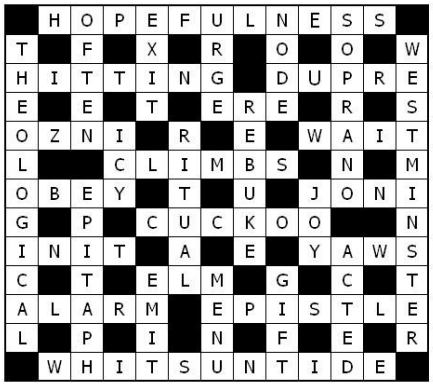
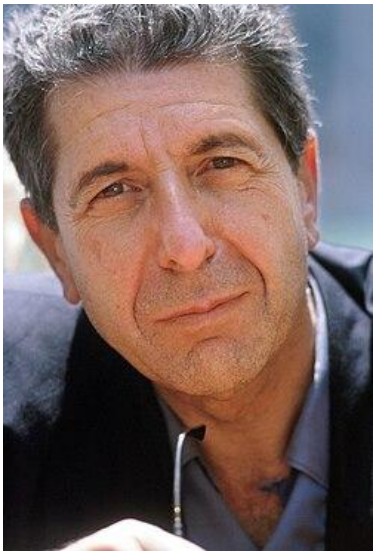
Crossword Puzzle Solution is here



Remembering Leonard Cohen – poet and singer



Ten years ago, on 7th November 2016, Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet died.

He was born into a well-off Jewish family in Montreal that was said to claim direct descent from Aaron – the name Cohen meaning priest. Bob Dylan once observed that Cohen wrote songs that were really prayers.

Before he was a singer Cohen was a poet and a novelist. Two collections – *Let Us Compare Mythologies* in 1956 and *Spice-Box of Earth* in 1961– brought him acclaim as a poet, and this was enhanced by two novels, *The Favourite Game* and *Beautiful Losers,* in the early 1960s.

He had already moved to the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, where he met the Norwegian Marianne Ihlen, who became his muse. Later he was the long-time companion – though not husband – of Suzanne Elrod, who he met in a lift in Manhattan in 1968. They had two children: Adam, also a singer-songwriter, and Lorca, a photographer.

Somewhat confusingly, Cohen's early song *Suzanne*, on his 1967 debut album, *The Songs of Leonard Cohen*, referred to a different woman, the wife of a friend.

Though some people mysteriously described his distinctive baritone voice as "depressing", many others found his performances and his songs magical, compelling and full of spiritual and physical depth. Songs like *Hallelujah* and *You Want it Darker*, with its use of the Hebrew word *hineni* (here I am), implying total availability to God, meant much to practising Jews and Christians.

Cohen spent seven years in a Buddhist monastery in the 1990s, and afterwards lost much of his life savings through financial betrayal by his former manager. Following that, at the age of 71 he embarked on a global tour that was a massive success. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008, and two years later was honoured with a lifetime achievement Grammy.

Keep an eye out for tsunamis

There seems to be an 'awareness' day for most things, and this month brings World Tsunami Awareness Day, on Thursday 5th November.

True, most of us on that day will be thinking of Guy Fawkes, fireworks and bonfires, but there are scientists out there who will use the day to raise our awareness of the dangers of tsunamis, even in Europe. They want better early warning systems.

For amazingly, UNESCO is warning that there's "close to a 100% chance" of a Mediterranean tsunami of some sort, happening before 2052. Modern computer modelling indicates that a very destructive wave could strike the French Riviera, with surprisingly little warning.

The region has the ingredients needed. There are active faultlines in the Ligurian Sea, near the French and Italian coats. And any movement further south, of the African and Eurasian plates, could also trigger potentially powerful earthquakes off North Africa.

Reflected Faith Series - Bread and wine

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on aspects of Christianity

Last time we reflected on the time of bringing forward our 'collection' money.
In many churches at the same time the wine and bread are also brought forward by members of the congregation for use during the Eucharist celebration.

This bringing of the bread and wine during the Offertory Procession isn't just a practical matter as these are required, but is a symbolic act representing the people deliberately coming forward to the 'holiest' of places and offering their daily work and lives to God.
In the earliest days of the church, actual food and wine was brought from the peoples' homes for the service and to distribute to the poor afterwards.

In orthodox churches there are often two types of 'bread.' One that is consecrated and given to communicants and another kept within the main body of the church, alongside plastic bags, for folk to take a piece home to share with their family and friends; which mimics this earlier action.

In the Church of England, and in many other denominations, when the bread and wine have been consecrated, they are considered to be set aside explicitly for the purpose of human consumption and therefore all must be consumed, either during or immediately after the service. This is normally done by the priest but can happen by any communicant member that the priest has asked.

Because of this it's important that the priest knows how many communicants there are likely to be. Too much wine consecrated can have a detrimental effect if one has to drive to another church!

For myself, churches have communicated this to me in various ways: in a suburban church we had a board up high at the back of the nave with large numbers placed there by a Churchwarden who had counted folk as they entered. In a large village church the number was whispered to me by a person bringing up the elements, whilst nowadays in small local village churches you will often see me stop and count!

This month
Next time you attend a communion service have a look at how numbers are communicated and who brings forward the elements. What does the priest do when she/he receives them?

The Seeking Heart

Please note that we will **not** be meeting during November.
The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm

Introducing Contemplative Prayer for all

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

Contemplative Eucharist
6.30pm on the Second Sunday of the Month

St James the Least of All

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

On working with young people

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation, but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service - whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge – a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Letters from St James the Least of All
by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James the Least of All in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained…

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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

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For more details about our events and activities
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The Local Christmas Carols

It is that time of year again and the local carol singing starts on *Thursday 12th November at 8pm at the Greyhound pub and will be sung there every Thursday up to and including Thursday 17th December. The final sing will be on Monday 21st December at at 7:00 pm in Ecclesfield Churchyard contnuing in Church around 7:40.*

I always get asked why the carols start so early in November. Well, the carols have been sung in homes, pubs and outdoors for well over 250 years. But the story goes that on Armistice Day 1918, there was such joy and celebration over the end of the war and peace that people in Ecclesfield decided to start singing carols early on that Thursday (14th November 1918) and the tradition carries on to this day starting on the Thursday after Armistice/Remembrance Sunday.

The tradition of this singing in South Yorkshire is also marked these days by the *National Festival of Village Carols* which takes place every 2 years in the Grenoside Community Centre, this year on Saturday 28th November. The festival was created over 30 years ago by Ian Russell and this will very sadly be the first time that he will not be leading the festival following his recent death.

Almost sold out but a few tickets may be available via www.villagecarols.org.uk.
Come and join us in the singing - you will be most welcome.

Andrew Robinson

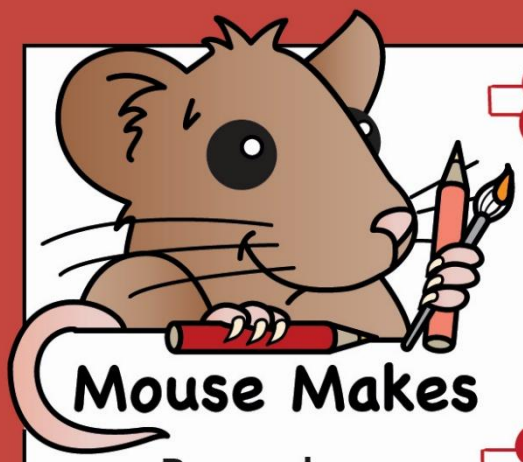
What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to 1 Timothy

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, *'my true son in the faith'* (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul.

Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money.

Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the church to bring glory to God: *'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'* (6:11,12)



Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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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

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment… Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you…? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

Story

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."

Thought for the Month

I write this month's 'thought' on the 21st October, a very tragic and important moment in the life of Great Britain - the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster. In that terrible and completely avoidable tragedy 116 children and 28 adults were killed when the waste from the local colliery, which had been tipped on a mountain slope above the village, collapsed.

The main building hit by the waste was the local junior school in which 109 children and 5 teachers were killed.

As a parent and grandparent I cannot know what it does to you to send your child off to school and then never see them again. Losing anyone that we love changes us, we never get over it, time brings familiarity, but it does not heal in any real sense. It has always seemed to me that the greatest tragedy that can befall anyone is to lose a child. I often say that I have few ambitions left in life, but the main one is not to outlive my children or grandchildren.

Tragedies like Aberfan, in fact the loss of any child, always raises questions. We seek an explanation. 'Why? we ask. And there is no answer to that question. There can be no satisfactory answer to that question. And even if someone could explain the tragedies that hit all of our lives at one time or another, the explanation would bring no healing.

But there is another question that we can ask, one that points us forward. Life after any tragedy is never the same as life before, but our lives go on because they must.

The question that we could ask instead of 'Why?' is 'What now?' Given this new reality that has engulfed my life; given that my life will never be the same again, what step can I take towards the new future. I take the step knowing that it is not the future that I expected or the future that I wanted. But it is the only future that is possible now. So, what now? What is the next step that I can take?

My belief and my experience is that faith does not prevent tragedy, nor does it take away the pain and anger that follows; but we can know that we are not alone in the darkness. We can know and trust that Someone is with us, even when we struggle to believe this - perhaps especially when we struggle to believe. We take the next step, and the one who is with us in the valley of the shadow of death walks with us step by step, all the way.

God bless,

Tim

Aberfan Disaster Memorial Garden
Image Attribution: Llywelyn2000 at Welsh Wikipedia

Humour & Philosophy Page

Home alone? - The bishop needed to call one of his clergy about an urgent problem within the diocese. But when he rang the vicar's number, he was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?"

Feeling impatient, the bishop asked, "Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?" the bishop asked. To his surprise, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, is your Mummy there?" asked the bishop. The small voice said "Yes."

"May I talk with her?" Again, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, who else is in your house?" the bishop demanded.

"A policeman," whispered the child. Startled, the bishop asked to speak with him.

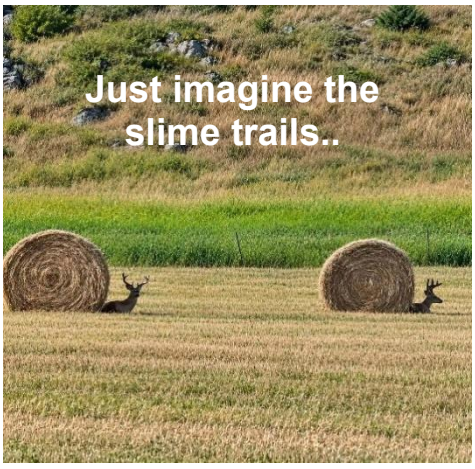
"No, he's busy," whispered the child. "He's talking to Daddy and Mommy and the search team."

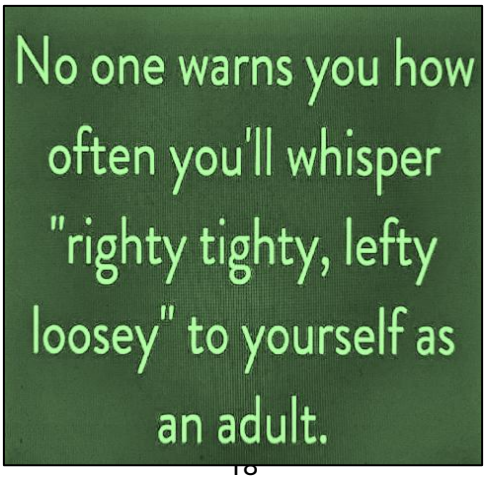
"What is going on there? Who are they searching for?" demanded the bishop, now thoroughly alarmed.

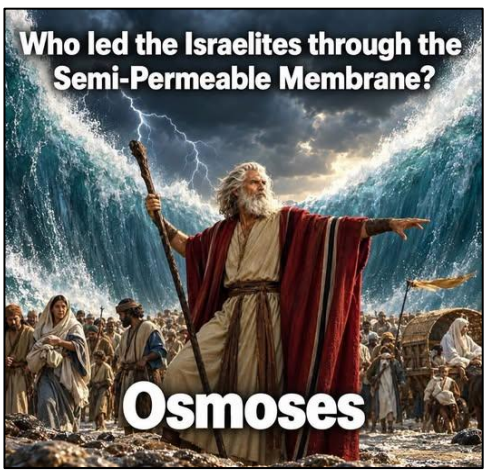
Still whispering, the young voice replied, along with a muffled giggle: "Me."

Miscellaneous observations on life

1. The only thing that wakes you up faster than coffee is spilled coffee.
2. About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.
3. An apology is the best way to have the last word.
4. I'm good at firework displays. I've got a flare for it.







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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

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Sunday 4th October Keira-Leigh Loxley and Huxley Beau Bradley

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

Weddings:

Friday 23rd October Jonathan William Butcher & Poppy Chanel Dungworth

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

Funerals:

Wednesday 14th October	Harry Hossell
Thursday 15th October	Patricia Ann Tordoff
Wednesday 28th October	Carol Ann Outlaw

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

St Peter's 400th anniversary

Four hundred years ago, on 18th November 1626, St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City was completed. It is the largest church in the world (measured by its interior). Planned at first by Pope Nicholas V in the 15th century, its construction started on 18th April 1506, under Pope Julius II. The idea was to replace a 4th century church – Old St Peter's Basilica – built by the Emperor Constantine, supposedly on the site of Peter's martyrdom and burial. The new building took 120 years to finish.

Sun Rise on St Peters © K A Lonsborough

Its dome, designed by Michelangelo, rises to a height of almost 450 feet from the floor of the Basilica to the top of its external cross and is the tallest dome in the world.

The original design of the Italian Renaissance church was created by Donato Bramante, with additional features by Carlo Maderno and Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

Despite its size and prominence, St Peter's Basilica is not the Pope's official seat and does not rank first of the major basilicas of Rome. That honour goes to the Pope's Cathedral, the Archbasilica of St John Lateran, which is also seen as the mother church of all churches in communion with the Catholic Church, despite being located outside Vatican City.

Nevertheless St Peter's functions for most purposes as the Pope's principal church, because nearly all Papal liturgies and ceremonies take place there: this is because of its location within Vatican City, its size, and the convenience of being close to the Papal residence. The liturgies at which the Pope presides draw congregations of up to 80,000 people.

It also contains the ancient "Chair of Saint Peter", a gift to Pope John VIII from Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Bald in 875 which, despite its dubious pedigree, is used to symbolise the line of apostolic succession.

The Gardening Year – November

November/December/January are quiet months in the gardening year so for the next couple of issues I shall remind our readers of the benefits of manures and fertilisers. Most soils contain natural plant foods, in varying degrees. Because they are constantly being neutralised for plant growth, and are also leached out of the soil, they have to be replenished with fertilisers and manure.

Of the numerous chemical elements in the soil, nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, magnesium, calcium and sulphur are required in substantial quantities. Iron, boron, zinc, manganese, copper and molybdenum are present as miner or trace elements are required only in small quantities nutrient materials are absorbed in solution by the roots of plants. Of the 6 major elements, nitrogen, phosphate and potassium are the most important and must be available in the correct balance.

Trace elements accrue as impurities in the major elements and naturally in garden compost. Fertiliser is a substance which supplies one of the major nutrients-nitrogen, phosphate or potassium to the soil. Manures supplement the plant nutrients already present but also provide humus and improve the condition of the soil. Fertilisers maybe of organic or inorganic origin. They are derived from animal and/or vegetable matter, from mineral deposits or processed synthetically.

Inorganic fertilisers are often termed artificial or chemical fertilisers, but this does not imply an inferior quality. An important difference between organic or inorganic fertilisers is that the chemical elements in an organic fertiliser have to go through a process of conversion before they become available to plants: consequently an organic fertiliser is long lasting. In an inorganic fertiliser the plant nutrients are readily available and are therefore quick acting.

Manures are usually dug into the soil while plant growth is dormant, generally at the rate of a bucket full per square yard. Fertiliser may be applied either as a base dressing or as a top dressing. As a base dressing, fertiliser is applied to the top few inches of soil prior to sowing or planting it is likely raked or hoed in. When used as a top-dressing fertiliser is applied during the growing season. It should be spread evenly, not concentrated round the base of a plant, and hoed into the surface of the soil.it should not be allowed to fall on the foliage or stems of the plants.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – November

Here is a list of foods in season that should be at their best this month

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

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

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

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

Fish – Brill, Clams, Coley, Eel, Gurnard, 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

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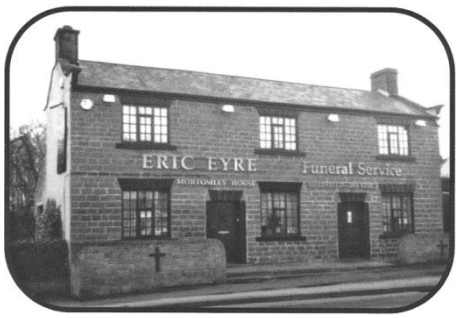


Golden Charter Funeral Plans

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

Time to Eat – Butternut Squash

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. Other members of the Cucurbitaceae family include the pumpkin, cucumber and courgette. Winter squash, such as the butternut, are squash that are harvested when mature, with hard skins. Summer squash (including cucumbers and courgettes) are eaten whilst immature and usually have an edible skin and less strongly flavoured flesh.

Buying and use - 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.

Preparation and use - The hard rind, dense flesh and awkward shape mean that butternut squash require 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.

Nutrition - 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. 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.

There are lots of recipes out there - See: https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/butternut_squash

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

1 and **20** Down ‘Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy’(11,3)

9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: ‘Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?” (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 ‘At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay’(3)

13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)

16 ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised’ (Acts 1:4) (4)

17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter’s response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: ‘We must _God rather than men!’(Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 ‘Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ ‘(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 ‘No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you’(Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church’s calendar (11)

Clues Down

2 ‘O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together’ Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

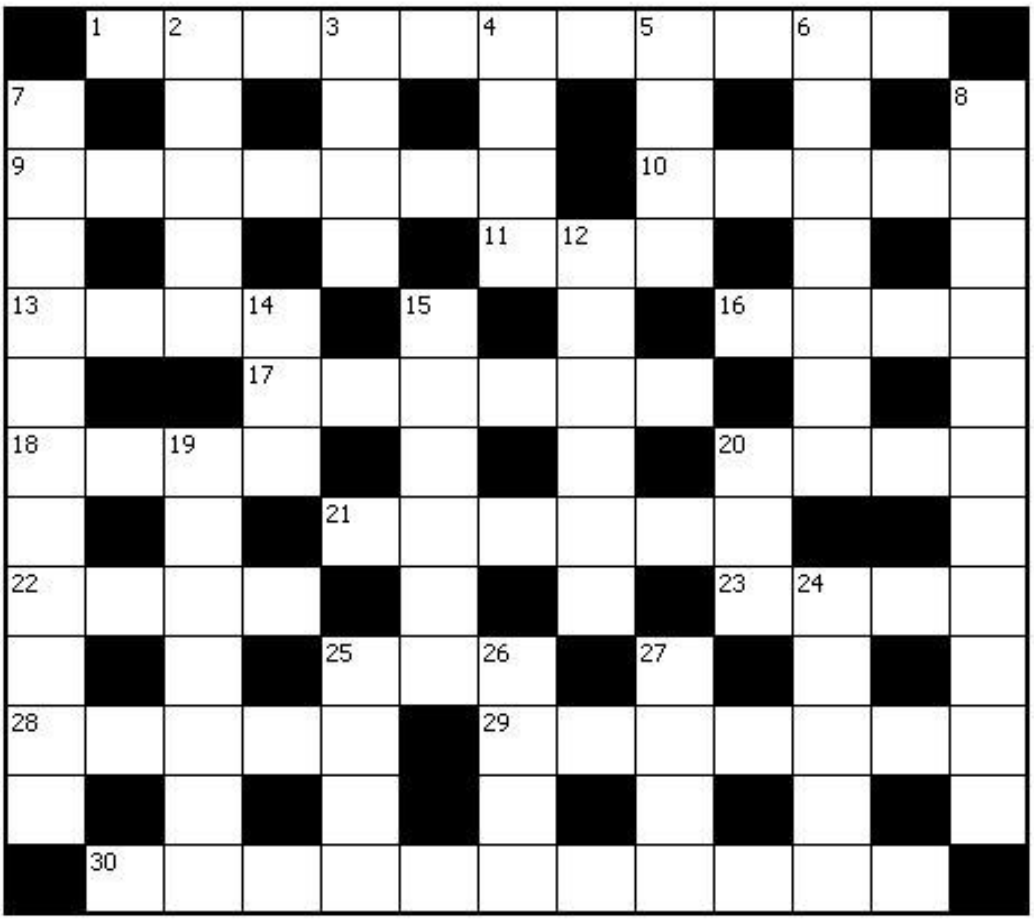
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 ‘For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’(Romans 6:23) (4)

Solution is on Page 8



Prayer for November 2026 *by Daphne Kitching*

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion. Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always. In your name, Amen.

Chapeltown & District Probus Club

We welcomed the well-known Sheffield historian David Templeman as our guest speaker at our 14th October meeing. David presented the first of his 6 revised talks about the history of Sheffield and its People. The focus was on the early days of the town including the days of the castle and the water in Barker's Pool when the Town had only around 2,400 people. The small dam at the pool was critical to the availability of fresh water and the process for washing the streets every 3 months.

David then went on to focus on the role of James Montgomery who ran the only Sheffield Newspaper in the late 18th and early 19th century and was a celebrated hymn writer, many still in use such as the Carol Angels from the Realms of Glory. He is celebrated with a statue by the Cathedral, the Montgomery Hall, a drinking mountain on Broad Lane and several roads named after him. Finally, David put a focus on the Cathedral, its history and some of the Sheffield notables who have memorial tablets there.

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). We also welcome partners, wives and friends to all the visits, the 3 seasonal lunches and the annual dinner.

Our next speaker on 11th November will be John Kirkman who will speak on his travels and adventures in South America.

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

11th November – John Kirkman – South American Adventure
9th December – Mike Ogden – The House by the River
13th January – Susan Kirkman – Living with Autism

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

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

Andrew Robinson

Miscellaneous observations

The weather reports these days remind us of Mark Twain's '136 varieties of New England weather'. In that masterpiece he referred to the forecasters as being so uncertain of what to predict, that their predictions went like this:

"Probably northeast to southwest winds, varying to the southward and westward and eastward and points in between; high and low barometer sweeping around from place to place; probable areas of rain, snow, hail and drought succeeded or preceded by earthquakes, with thunder and lightning."

Prayers and Poems Page

Feedback Fatigue- *By Nigel Beeton*

Whene'er we place an order
For goods or merry tune,
There's one thing to be sure of –
The questions follow soon!

How did you like your purchase?
From one to five – please score!
How easy were your searches?
Will you return once more?

Or will you recommend us
To family or friend?
The questions that they send us
They never seem to end!

For feedback they are thirsting
"For quality", they say.
With questions they are bursting!
They pour in every day!

Our time is cast asunder -
"Five minutes it will take!"
But then we have to wonder –
What difference will it make?

For what is really galling
Despite their questionnaires;
Their service? Still appalling!
For no-one really cares!

Redemption's Plan- *by Megan Carter*

As Abraham came to offer his son,
A heavenly voice and his hand was stayed
Caught in a thicket a ram was found
And a divine exchange with the ram was made.

For God Himself would provide a lamb,
Redemption's plan now long foretold
With Paradise lost and sin abounding
God's purpose for man began to unfold.

A sacrifice made, a Man on a cross,
Now lifted high, the great I Am,
Sin's grip was lost and man was redeemed
As He became our Pascal Lamb.

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

The Gentle King

Christ the King – His gentle grace
Will not be found in halls of stone.
But in the still and quiet place
Where prayers are gathered, pleas made known.

His mighty hand holds sword nor spear,
No weapons fly at His command;
But earthly empires disappear
Crushed by faithful, prayerful hands.

No crown of gold – His royal brow
Bore only crown of braided thorn;
Yet ev'ry knee to Him will bow
Every person ever born.

We come before our Sovereign King
We gaze upon His shining face.
How loud our Alleluias ring!
We're saved by His amazing grace!

By Nigel Beeton

"For the Fallen"
"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

Could a cemetery – or churchyard – surprise you?

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

A while back, I found a strange connection between the cemetery, opposite the church where I minister, and my hometown.

I discovered that a former head curator of the world-renowned Kew Gardens in west London was buried in the cemetery – and that one of his lasting achievements was to plant a line of trees along the gardens' Thames embankment.

Why? To hide unsightly views of industrial Brentford – where I was brought up – from visitors to the gardens.

Back then, Brentford was the site of one of London's largest gas production plants and its pungent smell drifted across the area. I was christened in a church that nestled among the gasworks.

Today, Brentford is a thriving west London suburb that even boasts a Premier League football team.

Cemeteries and churchyards can be places of encounter and surprise. Places too that speak of history, of community, of nature and of the spiritual.

My local municipal cemetery has graves dating from the 1880s, including more than 200 war graves and a memorial, built after the First World War. Walking among the numerous graves, you can see reminders of people who lived lives very different to our own.

Well-known people buried there include Samuel Ryder, who founded golf's Ryder Cup, and was a prominent local churchman.

The cemetery, like all cemeteries, also speaks of the breadth of the local community, with people of different nationalities and faiths buried within its grounds.

Humour sometimes features on the inscriptions. One of my favourite gravestones reads, "I can only please one person a day – today is not your day. Tomorrow doesn't look good either!"

The cemetery is a green oasis in a busy urban suburb. Take just a few steps away from the busy road, and you are in a nature reserve, with many birds, trees and plants, plus squirrels and other animals.

And, of course, the cemetery is a spiritual place, where many people go to remember their loved ones, perhaps to pray and reflect. Early morning in the cemetery is always a special time for me, where I can feel close to God.

If you are looking for somewhere to experience history, community, nature and the spiritual, then consider paying a visit to a cemetery or churchyard near you. It may just surprise you.

See - https://stmaryseccleslfield.org.uk/onewebmedia/Burials/Ecclesfield_Churchyard_Transcription.pdf

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
25thecclesfieldscouts@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

Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club
Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month in Grenoside Community Centre
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow
chapeltown.probus@gmail.com
www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk

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

Useful Contacts

	E-mail:	Phone:
Vicar:		
Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	0114 257 0002
Church Wardens		
Ann Hackett		
Church Office		
Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	0114 245 0106
Website	https://stmaryseccleSfield.org.uk/	

Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:
Choir Practice in Church	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	
Contact: Pam Thomson		0114 246 1541
Music Group	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	
Contact: Andrea Whittaker		0114 246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall	1.45 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	
Contact: Maureen Lambert		0114 246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	
Contact: Elaine Heeley		07946 823284
Bell Ringers	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	
Contact: Phil Hirst		0114 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
1st November	All Saints	White or Gold
8th November	Remembrance Sunday	Green
15th November	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
22nd November	Christ the King	White
29th November	1st Sunday of Advent	Purple

ECCLESFIELD
IN BLOOM
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
at St. Mary's Church
Ecclesfield
between 10am and 12 noon
on Saturday
28th November 2026
Tea/Coffee, Cakes,
Raffle, Cards,
Gifts,Toys, Books &
Jewellery

St Mary's – Ecclesfield

Presents

The South Yorkshire Police Band

Sponsored by Ecclesfield Parish Council

Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £10

Includes a glass of bubbly and a mince pie during the interval!

Tickets can be purchased in advance from:
St Mary's Coffee Shop on Tuesdays and Fridays or from Eventbrite by scanning the QR code

Get ready for a festive night with the South Yorkshire Police Band! Join us in person for a joyful evening filled with Christmas classics, festive tunes and a great community atmosphere. Whether you're a fan of traditional carols or upbeat holiday music, this concert has something for everyone. Bring your friends and family and let's celebrate the season together with fantastic live music and holiday cheer

All proceeds go to St Mary's Organ Restoration Fund