News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield

Church Magazine September

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Price 60 p

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S ECCLESFIELD

What connects
12th century Benedictine monks, Admiral Lord Nelson and the Brownies?

Come and visit St Mary's Church, also known as the 'Minister of the Moors', a grade 1 listed church at the heart of Ecclesfield

Join us on guided tours through Ecclesfield's 2,000-year history

Visit the 7th century Anglo-Saxon crosses, once hidden pre-reformation altar, and a memorial to a 17th century knight

You are warmly invited to our Launch Event

Saturday 19th September 2026

4:00pm – 6:00pm

St Mary's Church, Ecclesfield, S35 9XZ

Discover • Connect • Support

Join us as we launch Friends of St Mary's Ecclesfield - a new community group dedicated to preserving and celebrating our historic church.

What to Expect:

Welcome & Opening Talk
Hear about the vision for St Mary's and why it matters

Guided Church Tours
Explore the history, architecture, and stories of this special place

Refreshments

Be Part of the Future

Join the Friends of St Mary's - Support the church's future

Get involved in events and activities

Free to attend • All are welcome • Come along & bring a friend

Website: friendsofstmarysecclefield.org.uk

Email: friendsofstmarysecclefield@gmail.com

First Words

Thursday 3rd September 9.30am Mid-week Communion (Revd. Jeni Fryer)

Saturday 5th September 3pm Wedding in Church

Thursday 10th September, Mid-week Communion, Revd. Andy Poultney

Saturday 12th September 9am Prayer Breakfast

10.30am Bereavement Cafe

Sunday 13th September, 10am Prayer & Praise, followed at 12noon by extra Baptism Service. 6.30pm Contemplative Eucharist

Monday 14th September 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church

Tuesday 15th September Heritage Week, Church open 12noon to 4pm

Wednesday 16th September, Heritage - Church open 10am to 4pm, 6.30pm The Seeking Heart, Contemplative Prayer & Meditation for all

Thursday 17th September at 9.30am Mid-week Communion. 12noon Funeral in Church

Friday 18th September, Heritage - Church open 12noon to 4pm

Saturday 19th September. Heritage - Church open 10am - 4pm. 4pm Launch of Friends of Ecclesfield Church Group. 7pm Concert in Church by The Steel City Choristers

Sunday 20th September, Heritage - Church open 12noon - 4pm

Monday 21st September, 7pm Baptism Preparation in Church

Wednesday 23rd September 2pm Finance Committee Meeting in Church. 5pm Wedding Rehearsal

Thursday 24th September 10.30am Service at Nightingale Nursing Home after the midweek Communion

Friday 25th September 2pm Wedding in Church

Sunday 27th September, 10am, St Michael and All Angels. 12 noon Baptisms in Church

Tuesday 29th September 4pm Ecclesfield Charities meeting in Church. 5.30pm Ecclesfield Feoffees Meeting in Church

For more information about these events please speak to Tim.

Front Cover – Harvesting – Back when I was a lad AI generated
Back Cover – **Steel City Choristers fund raising 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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Mobile: 07914 357839

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 bells

'He gave us eyes to see them' – the church bells

'Summoned by Bells' is the title of John Betjeman's poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones.

One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine's Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.

The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as time-keepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven.

The tenor bell at Warburton Church in Cheshire is inscribed with the words, 'I bid you to the house of prayer. St Werburgh's hallowed name I bear. Good folk draw near and humbly pray, as prayed that saint in olden day.' As a little boy, John Betjeman would listen to the bells with his teddy bear, Archibald. 'I heard the church bells hollowing out the sky, deep beyond deep, like never-ending stars.' For him, for the people of Brookland, and for all of us, the bells were like stars lighting up the sky with faith and joy and praise.

Image credit: Ad Meskens, Wikimedia

Miscellaneous observations on life - As good as it gets

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart. - *Anon*

A man is as big as the things that make him angry. - *Winston Churchill*

Our whole life is taken up with anxiety for personal security, with preparations for living, so that we really never live at all. - *Leo Tolstoy*

I am an atheist still, thank God. - *Luis Bunuel*

Prayer for the Month

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The *Sanctus* Prayer (from the Latin for 'Holy') is said or sung at every celebration of the Eucharist. It is found in both the modern Communion service (Common Worship) and also in the Book of Common Prayer of 1662. Its use though, goes back long before the Church of England.

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury and author of the Prayer Book took the Sanctus, along with much of the BCP Communion Service from the Pre-Reformation Church.

It is thought to have been part of the Communion Service since about the Fifth Century, and its use in Christian worship more generally is thought to go back to the Second Century.

The text of the prayer is Biblical and comes from the prophet Isaiah's vision of heaven (Isaiah chapter 6) and from the vision of heaven in Revelation (chapter 4). The phrase, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest" comes from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as its true King on Palm Sunday (see Matthew 21:9). The prayer then unites the worship of earth and heaven.

When I say or sing these words as part of our celebration of the Eucharist, it reminds me that our worship is offered as part of the worship of the whole Church across the world, indeed of the whole Church stretching across time. More than this it reminds us that our worship is part of the worship of eternity, of heaven.

We worship and we pray, as the Communion Prayer says, "With angels and Archangels, and all the company of heaven" including those members of the Church who have passed from this world into God's eternity.

As I stand behind the altar and we pray this prayer, my vision rises from the gathered congregation to the window above the West Doors which depicts another ancient prayer, the *Te Deum*. The prayer and the window show heaven and earth united as one in worshipping and service Christ who sits on the throne of heaven.

In the times when prayer is hard and words do not come easily, when my faith feels weak and inadequate; this prayer reminds me that it isn't about me. That I am part of a communion which crosses time and space; creation and eternity; heaven and earth. My feeble thoughts and words are part of a rich and vast offering; my prayers are part of a river whose origins are in Jesus Himself who offered prayer and worship during His days on earth.

This prayer reminds us that in the Eucharist we are united in deep communion with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and also with the Church throughout time and space as well as with the heavenly orders. Our voices are only a tiny part of that worship; but they are not lost; they are not insignificant. The worship and prayer of heaven and earth magnify our prayers and our worship.

God bless, Tim

Andrew Jones

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Crossword Puzzle Solution is here

heritage open days

What connects: 12th century Benedictine monks, Admiral Lord Nelson, and The Brownies? Come and find out at St Mary's church

'The Minster of the Moors'

A Grade 1 Listed church at the heart of Ecclesfield

Join us on guided tours through Ecclesfield's 2,000-year history

Visit the two7th century Anglo-Saxon stone crosses, once hidden pre-reformation altar, and memorial to a 17th century knight

Learn about the symbology of hatchments and the battle-ready armaments

St Mary's has an unusual Three-Altar Layout

The arrangement in St Mary's is unusual because it includes one high altar (main altar) in the centre of the sanctuary, a new altar at the east end of the nave, and a recently re-erected and consecrated medieval altar in the north chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The south chapel has been reconfigured as a baptistry.

Hear stories about the famous Gatty family and the influential women who helped shape the village of Ecclesfield

Climb the stairs of St Mary's iconic clocktower and meet the bell ringers

And, before you leave, enjoy the café nestled within these ancient stone walls

To donate to St Mary's
Scan the QR code

Reflected Faith Series - The Peace

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

Last time we reflected on the time of 'Intercessions' within our service. This month, we consider what comes next.

In a Common Worship Communion service, the 'Peace' comes straight after the Intercessions. There is no such thing with a Book of Common Prayer (BCP) service.

A time of sharing 'The Peace' is not restricted to Communion services, but may take place in other services also.

It does not have to follow the Intercessions, but instead could also be held towards the start or end of the service.

Where you place 'the Peace' is significant: having it at the beginning emphasises the community coming together, whilst towards the end of the service might be to emphasise the importance of being together that encourages and enables us to take God with us into our everyday lives.

But why have it at all? Haven't we all come together to this service to worship the same God? To be together with others who think and believe as we do?

Hopefully yes, but sometimes we just need a visible sign of that very unity and a reminder that we are a part of this community where we are, as well as a part of the wider church across the world.

It is so easy to forget this. To just go on repeat and not be conscious of this enormous honour that we have to 'meet together in His presence'.

'Sharing the peace'- however we do that - with one another is a demonstrative act of community. Everyone is included.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you – And also with you.

This month
Where is 'The Peace' placed within your service and what do you think is the reason for that? Does making a physical connection – however you do that – with those around you make a difference to your thinking about 'community'?

The Seeking Heart

Introducing Contemplative Prayer for all

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

We next meet on Wednesday 16th September
For more information see Tim. All are welcome

Contemplative Eucharist.
6.30pm on the Second Sunday of the Month
This month we meet on Sunday 13th September 6.30pm

St James the Least of All

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

On what clergy should wear on their feet

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Thank you for sending me the photograph of you having your face painted at your parish's 'Fun Day' - although I can't help feeling that to label an event 'fun' is the most effective way of draining it of all amusement whatsoever. Why on earth can't parishes continue with the traditional title of 'Crowning of the Rose Queen and Fete', equally traditionally grimly enjoyed to the accompaniment of thunder and torrential rain.

However, the one thing that caused me the greatest concern in your photo was the fact that you were wearing sandals. Sandals are only to be worn by Franciscan monks (without socks) and holidaymakers on Blackpool promenade (regrettably, generally with socks). I know that you will argue that Jesus wore sandals. This was mainly because reliable pairs of brogues had yet to be invented, but also because He lived in a hot, dry country. We live in a cold, wet one.

The only appropriate colour for footwear for a parish priest is black, and the only appropriate material is leather - although I will concede that can create difficulties. Wet leather shoes and polished marble sanctuary floors are a potentially lethal combination.

I well remember as a curate when old Canon Griffith entered the Sanctuary, having just got drenched coming from the Rectory. His feet moved across the marble floor some miles per hour faster than the rest of his body. Had he landed face down, the congregation may have assumed he was reverently prostrating himself before the altar. But lying in a supine position, staring in a dazed state at the rafters, only conveyed inappropriate indolence, when he should be at work.

However, do not take the alternative of wearing crepe soles. I suspect your present church will be fully carpeted - it seems to go with your sort of theology - and there will be no problem. But crepe soles and any sort of polished stone floor are a truly disastrous mixture. The slightest movement will make it sound as if you are being followed by a swarm of demented frogs.

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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Save the Historic Organ at St Mary's Church, Ecclesfield

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Why Restoration is Urgent

Critical parts of the organ are now failing:

- The bellows, essential for supplying air, are in poor condition
- The electronic control system is obsolescent
- Wear and age are affecting reliability and sound quality
- Without restoration, the instrument risks falling silent

The Restoration Project

The planned work will:

- Clean and overhaul the entire instrument
- Restore the two failing bellows, each the size of a child's paddling pool!
- Replace the solid-state control system with a computer processor
- Clean and repair and retune all 1,895 pipes

This will cost us £100,000 which we know is a huge amount to raise, so any help you can give, no matter how small will help us secure the organ's future for worship, concerts, and community use.

To donate now please scan the QR code

For more information:

Contact Pam Thomson, one of our organists, Email: pamela@quiltdame.co.uk

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

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Daniel

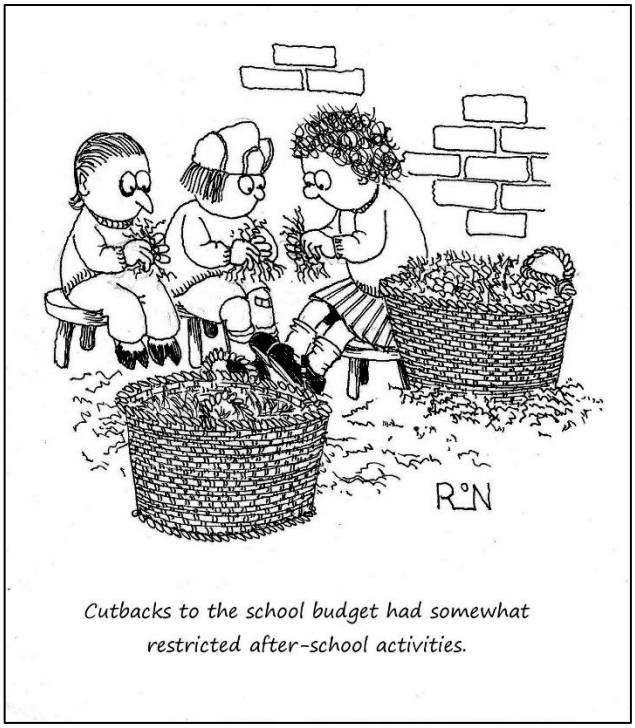
Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible

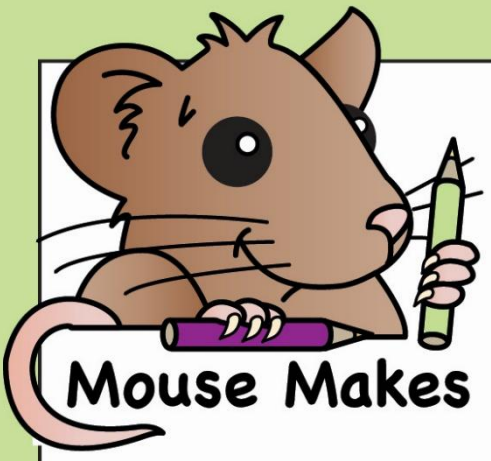
This month we return to looking at Old Testament books. The book of Daniel describes his life in Babylon during the sixth century B.C., when he served both Babylonian and Persian rulers.

As a teenager, Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605 B.C. to Babylon, where he lived for over 70 years. They were trained as officials in King Nebuchadnezzar's court for three years. Their names and diets were changed to reflect Babylonian culture and take away their Jewish identity. However, Daniel and his friends showed the superiority of their Jewish diet and gained the favour of the king.

Chapters 1-6 are largely narrative, with Daniel and his friends (renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) demonstrating that God is in control. The three friends refused to worship the pagan Babylonian gods and were thrown into a fiery furnace. However, they emerged unharmed because of God's miraculous protection. He also delivered Daniel from a den of lions when he refused to worship the Persian king Darius. Daniel also interpreted several visions and dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The second half of the book (chaps.7-12) consists of a series of visions, which show that God is in control of history.

The book affirms that God is the sovereign ruler of the world and rewards His faithful servants, as expressed by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego: *'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'* (Daniel 3: 17,18)





THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

— — — — —

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

— — — — —*"*

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

— — — —

and

— — — — — —

John 15:6

READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?

What does Jesus command?

To — — — —

one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

H T H R O W N A W A Y
I R A B I D E W I S B
D U F R U I T F U L U
N E R A J S I A M J R
C V U N F C U T V P N
L J I C W I T H E R S
E O T H O P J E S U S
A Y V W R L C R O N V
N G A R D E N E R E I
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JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
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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

How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be 'very good' (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

When you try and do God's work

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - *St Augustine of Hippo*

He who labours as he prays, lifts up his heart to God with his hands. - St Bernard of Clairvaux

Instead of letting a mob of hoodlum tasks surround and trample me to death, I force them into a single file and handle them one at a time. - *D Mallough*

The real mark of a saint is that he or she makes it easier for others to believe in God. - *Anon*

Thought for the Month

As the old saying goes, “You can’t have too many friends!”

On Saturday 19th September at 4pm, as part of our Heritage Week celebrations, we will be launching a “Friends of St Mary’s Ecclesfield” group.

There will be light refreshments and a short introduction after which, for those who would like it, a guided tour of St Mary’s.

The reason that we are launching the ‘Friends Group’ is that many people who do not regularly attend services at St Mary’s feel that this is their Church; that they belong and are part of the Church family.

Joining the Friends Group is a way to express support and belonging. It is a way of being kept in touch with special events at St Mary’s. There will also be ways in which you can support the work, by offering to help in the Churchyard or Church sitting so that the building can be kept open more often.

Those with administrative skills could offer help with the admin that goes with managing a Grade One Medieval building.

Although the Friends Group is not primarily about raising funds, for those who want to there will be ways of supporting the finances of St Mary’s.

I believe that St Mary’s is not just for those who attend worship services on Sundays or weekdays. As the Church of England, we are here for anyone and everyone. Some are attracted by the history and heritage; others are happy to know that we are here whenever we are needed for family occasions - weddings, Christenings or funerals. Others simply appreciate a safe and peaceful space where all are welcome.

If you would like to know more about the Friends Group, come along on the 19th of September, or speak to Tim.

God bless,

Tim

Friends of St Mary’s Church Ecclesfield

On Saturday 19th September at 4pm we will be launching a Friends of Ecclesfield Church Group.

Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity for a tour of Church.

For more information please contact Tim or just come along.

Humour & Philosophy Page

Typeface - I'm working on a new typeface to be used for church bulletins. I call it Baptismal Font.

Shops - Grandfather talked often about the 'good old days', when the cost of living was much lower. "When I was a lad," he exclaimed, "my mother could send me to the local shop and I'd get some mince, two pints of milk, some bread, some tinned rice and a magazine – all for less than a pound!" His young grandson protested: "You couldn't do that now. They got those video cameras everywhere you look.

Get rid - A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it. So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.

Are politicians the oldest profession? - A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. **Said** the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation." "**Maybe,"** admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job." "**But"** the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

Classic FM Quiz below – Can you work out the name of the piece and the composers name? Answers on page 20 or if viewing the magazine as a pdf just tap or click the image to play…
All images AI generated using Google Gemini https://gemini.google.com

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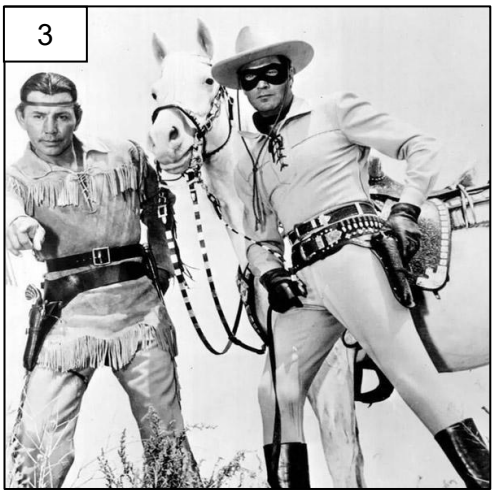

4

5

6

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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 2nd August — Ruben Gavin Wasicki

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

Weddings:

Saturday 1st August — Carl Hepworth & Amy Jayne Whitworth
Saturday 8th August — Glen Craig Kennedy & Lucy Ellie Statham
Saturday 15th August — Samuel John Hall & Leah Dennett

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

Funerals:

Monday 10th August — Fred Bradshaw
Wednesday 26th August — Christopher Geoffrey Singleton

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

Join the Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on 25th September

Why not consider attending – or even hosting – a Macmillan Coffee Morning? Many are going to be held soon, on 25th September, but you can hold one whenever you like.

About 50,000 coffee morning events are held around the country each year.

The first Coffee Morning happened in 1990. It was a small affair with a simple idea: guests would get together for coffee and donate the cost of their drink to Macmillan. It was so effective that Macmillan did it again the next year - only this time nationally.
Since then, the tradition has grown, until now an estimated 1.2 million coffee mornings have been held since the tradition first began.

These days, Coffee Mornings come in all shapes and sizes. They can range from small home gatherings to large corporate events; school fundraisers to a gathering with a local community group. But they all have one thing in common - they raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

More details at: https://www.macmillan.org.uk

Classic FM Quiz Answers

1/ 1812 Overture (Finale) - Composer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

2/ La danse macabre - Composer: Camille Saint-Saëns

3/ William Tell Overture (Finale) - Composer: Gioachino Rossini

4/ Sabre Dance - Composer: Aram Khachaturian

5/ Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

6/ Ride of the Valkyries - Composer: Richard Wagner

The Gardening Year – September

Colin Williams

Ground control. A major benefit to container gardening is that you have more control over your growing environment. Instead of being stuck with an allotment containing poor quality soil, waterlogged garden or a shady patch, you can choose and maintain your soil conditions, keep pots free draining and move them around to benefit from more sunshine or shade.

Invasive growers, some plants such as mint are invasive and will take over if put in the ground. It is an aggressive plant and will spread across an entire plot if left unchecked.
By growing mint in a pot, you can keep it where you want it and prevent it taking nutrients from the soil which can leave other plants struggling to survive.

Other crops such as courgettes, will take masses of room in an allotment or open plot, you'll find that small courgettes will turn into large marrows virtually overnight! By keeping the roots contained in a large container or grow bag you'll be able to enjoy smaller crops with more flavour throughout the season.

Pest control, it is easier to spot and deal with pests in containers and you'll have a much better chance of preventing them spreading to other plants. If you keep your garden small and are able to see the plants easily because they are up off the ground, then you'll be more likely to spot pests and prevent damage before it accrues. Diseases are less likely to take hold in container crops.

Firstly, using potting compost, it reduces the risk of disturbing organisms that spread diseases via contaminated soil.

Secondly your crops are easier to see and you can take swift action if any damage occurs, you can get on eye level with plants in containers, so you can spot diseases and prevent them spreading! Weather conditions, if the weather turns cold or there is a prolonged hot, dry spell you can move your plants around if they are in containers, it is easy to orient crops in pots to an ideal position for their optimum growth because with smaller containers you can move the whole lot.

Roses to assist new wood to mature and withstand winter frost, scatter a handful of sulphate of potash to the square yard over the roses except for a 6-inch circle round each bush.

Eat the Seasons – September

Here is a list of foods in season those in **bold** should be at their best this month

Vegetables – **Artichoke**, Aubergine, **Beetroot**, Carrots, Celery, Courgettes, Cucumber, **Fennel, Figs**, Garlic, Kale, **Kohlrabi,** Leeks, Mangetout, **Marrow, Onions,** Potatoes (Maincrop), **Peppers**, Radishes, Rocket, **Sweetcorn**, Tomatoes, **Turnips,** Watercress, **Wild Mushrooms**,

Fruit & Nuts - **Apples,** Bilberries, **Blackberries,** Clementines, **Cob Nuts, Damsons,** Grapefruit, Grapes, **Melons, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums**,

Herbs – **Chives**, Coriander, Mint, **Parsley** (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leaf), **Rosemary**, **Sage, Thyme**,

Meat – Duck, **Grouse**, **Guinea Fowl**, Lamb, **Rabbit**, **Venison**, **Wood Pigeon**

Fish – **Clams**, Cod, **Conger Eel**, **Crab**, Grey Mullet, **Gurnard**, **Haddock**, **Halibut**, John Dory, **Lemon Sole,** Lobster, **Mackere**l, Monkfish, **Pilchard** (Cornish Sardine), Plaice, Pollack, **Prawns**, **Scallops**, Sea Bass, **Sea Bream**, Shrimp, **Squid**, Turbot, Winkles,

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

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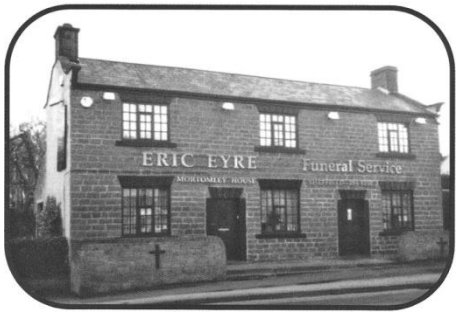


Golden Charter Funeral Plans

National Association of Funeral Directors

National SAIF Independent Funeral Directors

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

Time to Eat – Sweetcorn

For me, a just boiled (or microwaved) corn on the cob, speckled with freshly milled black pepper and rolled in melted butter is simply one of the greatest eating experiences available. Tinned or frozen sweetcorn can be tasty enough, but it doesn't compare to corn eaten straight from the cob, slathered with butter, when the crisp and succulent kernels explode with flavour in the mouth. There's no other food that regularly leaves us with burnt mouths because we can't wait for it to reach a reasonable temperature before tucking in. If you fancy being a bit more creative, there are a number of alternatives to the basic corn on the cob treatment. But really, why bother?

Sweetcorn is a form of maize that has been cultivated since the nineteenth century. Maize (known as corn in the USA and elsewhere) has been an important foodstuff for thousands of years. It was eaten by Mexican and central American cultures as early as 3,400 B.C. and fuelled the Aztec Empire as well as the Mayan and the Inca civilizations. It is widely thought that the Spanish brought maize back to Europe in the fifteenth century from where it then spread to east Asia and Africa. However this view does not go unchallenged and there is some evidence in support of an alternate theory (with far-reaching consequences for historians) that maize actually spread west from the Americas to Asia before it spread eastwards from Europe. Sweetcorn gathered popularity in the UK after World War II and is now grown extensively across southern England.

Sweetcorn, a grass, is a form of the cereal crop maize (*Zea mays*), harvested at a young age while the kernels are tender and sweet. A corn ear is an inflorescence (cluster of flowers around a stem) and the kernels are the fruit of the plant (more specifically a grain).

The husk should be green and fresh and conceal fine, silky threads. Kernels should be tightly packed, plump and smaller at the tips than in the middle (indicating young cobs). If buying from a market try to shop earlier in the day and avoid buying sweetcorn that has been sitting in warm sun - the rate at which the sugars are turned to starch increases rapidly with temperature after picking. As the point of sweetcorn is that it's sweet, keep sweetcorn cool and eat as soon as possible after picking - on the same day as purchase where possible. If keeping for more than a day, parboil the corn for a minute (this will help slow down the conversion of sugars) before refrigerating or freezing.

Cooking - To boil, strip the husk and silk and trim the stems. Cook in unsalted boiling water (salt will toughen the kernels) until the sweetcorn yields to a fork tip (anything from 3 to 10 minutes or more, depending on the condition of the corn). Season after cooking. o barbecue, soak the whole corn, with husks, in water for 10 minutes before cooking in the embers or over a moderate heat for 15 minutes or more, until toasted. Alternatively, soak the corn and remove the husk before brushing with a little oil and grilling. To remove kernels from a corn cob, trim one end to produce a flat surface, stand the corn vertically on the flat end and cut down the length of the cob at the base of the kernels. Turn the cob and repeat until all kernels have been stripped. This is much easier to do after cooking.

Sweetcorn provides useful amounts of vitamins A, B3 (supports metabolism, the nervous and digestive systems) and C. It also contains folic acid and fibre.

https://rickstein.com/blog/ricks-crab-and-sweetcorn-soup/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/sweetcorn_fritters_46558

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

1 ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain’ (Psalm 127:1) (6)

4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)

7 ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me’ (Matthew 26:38) (4)

8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)

13 ‘It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose’ (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

17 ‘Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down’ (Matthew 5:1) (3)

19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)

24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)

25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)

26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)

27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Clues Down

1 ‘Whoever finds his life will — it’ (Matthew 10:39) (4)

2 ‘My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father’s family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt’ (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

3 O raid (anag.) (5)

4 ‘If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven’ (Matthew 18:19) (5)

5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)

6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)

10 ‘Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment’ (Romans 12:3) (5)

11 Do ten(anag.)(5)

12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)

14 ‘Each one should — his own actions’(Galatians6:4)(4)

15 Among the items imported by Solomon’s fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)

18 ‘But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray’ (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)

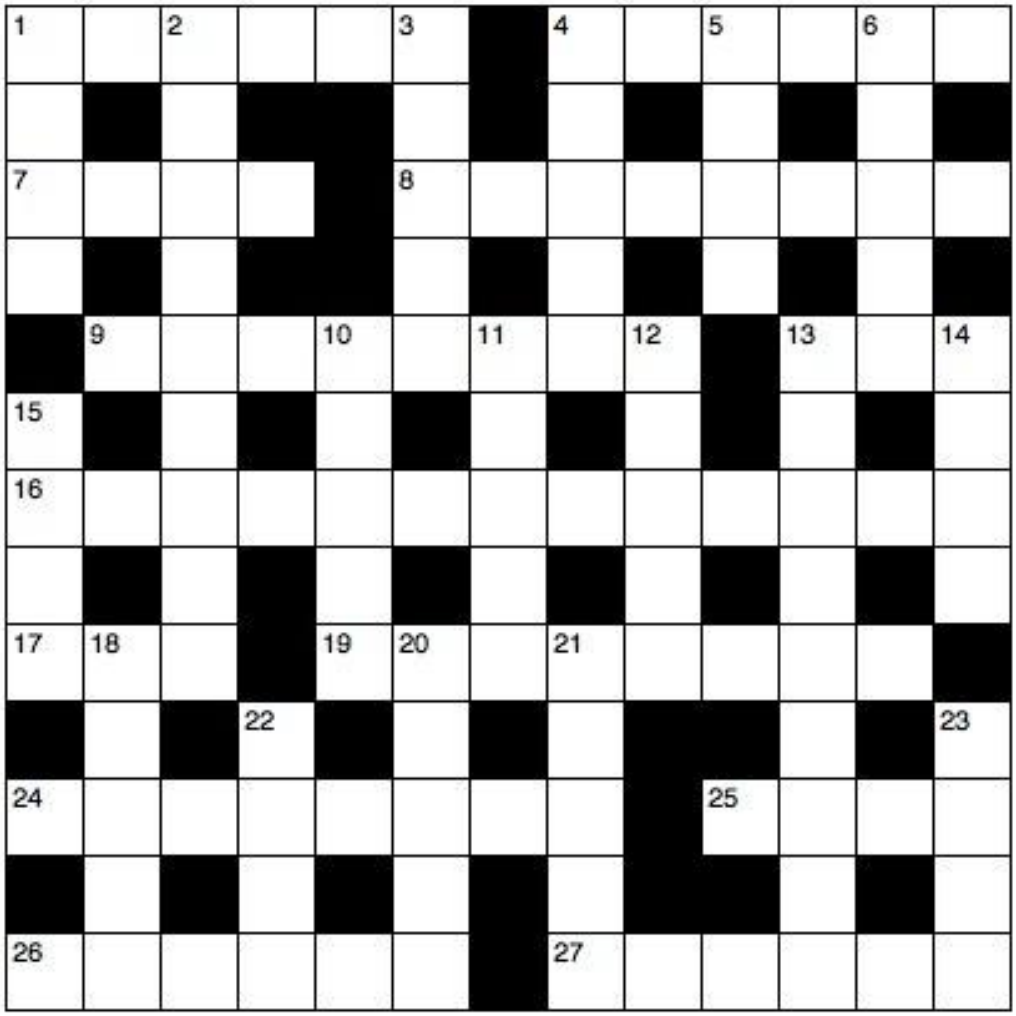
20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)

21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)

22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)

23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Solution is on Page 7



Prayer for September 2026

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!
New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.
Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.
Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Chapeltown & District Probus Club

On 12th August, we welcomed Paul Adey, one of our regular presenters who is well know for his history of cars series but also many other subjects. Paul presented on the subject of “Engineering Oddities”. A throughly researched and unusual topic, Paul started with surprising finds believed to be several thousand years old and unbelievable for items so old, moving on to strange designs from the 20th and even 21st century. All very fascinating.

Our 3rd trip this year to the RHS Bridgewater Gardens on the outskirts of Manchester was extremely successful. On a cool 5th August, the weather gave us some respite from the very hot days. A thoroughly worthwhile visit and the garden is really developing well including the chinese garden which is being expanded into something of significant size.

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).

Our next speaker on 9th September will be James Ellison on his long road to publication of his first book

Upcoming meetings on Wednesday at 10.00 in Grenoside Community Centre

(followed by optional lunch at Wortley Hall) : -

9th September – James Ellison – The Long Road to Publication

14th October – David Templeman – Olde Sheffield, People, Places and Buildings.

11th November – John Kirkman – South American Adventure

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

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

Andrew Robinson

A Sioux prayer

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and valleys. You are my mother and my father. You have given rain to make the corn grow, and sunshine to ripen it. Now in your strength the harvest begins.

I offer you the first morsels of the harvest. I know it is almost nothing compared with the abundance of the crop. But since you have provided the harvest, my gift to you is only a sing of what you have given to me.

You alone know how many suns and moons it will take to finish reaping. You alone know how heavy the crop will be. If I work too hard and too fast, I forget about you, who gave me the harvest. So, I will work steadily and slowly, remembering that each ear of corn is a priceless gift from you.

Prayers and Poems Page

The Sower- *By Nigel Beeton*

He works beneath the morning sun
He scatters wide the seed;
Rests not before the work is done
That bread may fill our need.

Some fell upon the hardened way
Where clay was hard as stone,
Birds ate the seeds right where they lay
And none was left alone.

Some landed on the rocky soil
Soon sprang their leaves of green -
To wilt beneath the sun's dread boil
As if they'd never been.

Some fell among the choking weeds
The tares took all the light;
Their growth then overwhelmed the seeds,
Which disappeared from sight.

But some fell on the fertile loam
The rain fell from the sky
A hundredfold their seeds had grown
As they grew strong and high.

Let not your heart be made of stone
Nor fail when troubles come;
By no foul sin be overgrown,
But thriving 'neath the sun!

House Blessing
Have you ever blessed your house? If not, here is a prayer to help you on your way!

God bless the house from ground to stay,
From beam to wall and all the way,
From head to post, from ridge to clay,
From balk to rooftree let it lay,
From found to top and every day
God bless both fore and aft, I pray,
Nor from the house God's blessing stray,
From top to toe the blessing go.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

Autumn

Yellow the bracken,
Golden the sheaves,
Rosy the apples,
Crimson the leaves;
Mist on the hillside,
Clouds grey and white.
Autumn, good morning!
Summer, good night!

By Florence Hoatson

Lovely Things

Bread is a lovely thing to eat –
God bless the barley and the wheat!

A lovely thing to breathe is air –
God bless the sunshine everywhere!

The earth's a lovely place to know –
God bless the folks that come and go!

Alive's a lovely thing to be –
Giver of life – we say – bless Thee!

By H M Sarson

The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory

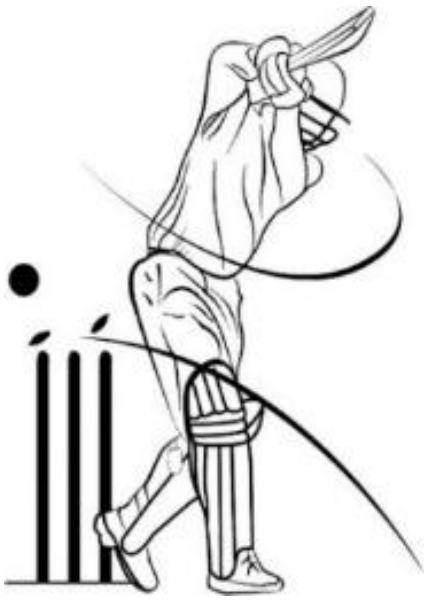
Almighty God, Creator:
The morning is yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is yours, dipping into time.
The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the lichen on the rocks, the tang of sea-weed,
All are yours.
Gladly we live in this garden of your creating.

By George MacLeod (1895 – 1991; founder of the Iona Community)

Loving Father - A prayer of Erasmus (1469 – 1536), the most renowned scholar of his age

Most loving Father, may we who seek to dwell in your house be governed wholly by your laws. In adversity and in prosperity, in life and in death, may you reveal to us your gracious will, and then give us strength in body and in heart to obey your commands. We pray that you will make us perfect, because only that which is perfect truly reflects your glory. And through the Holy Spirit you have shown us the way of perfection.

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The hot weather and lack of rain has continued to affect the ground and most pitches in South Yorkshire. With little or no rain for nearly 3 months, Baxter Field is really suffering in spite of the 40 tons of soil and seed treatment last autumn and the welcome rain in the autumn and winter. On 25th July at Tickhill, there was a challenging game. Whitley batted first and achieved a total of 259 after 50 overs and the progress of the game seemed to indicate that Tickhill would struggle to achieve this. However, Tickhill persisted and with an amazing 137 not-out for Connor Fisher, beat the Whitley total by 3 runs with 2 balls left, a tight, exciting but disappointing result as Whitley were only awarded 2 points.

1st August saw a game at Cawthorne with the conditions resulting in Cawthorne all-out for 140, a total which we could not beat being all-out for 132 but 6 points. 8th August saw Wakefield vist Cinder Hill and were all-out for 127 which Whitley managed to beat with overs and 4 wickets to spare. 15th August was a visit to Hallam, struggling in their first year back in the Premier League but a very tight game, with Whitley setting a target of 262 and Hallam getting very close but just failing to match with 245 after all 50 overs. In mid August, the 1st XI are in 5th place in the Premier Division, effectively equal 4th with Cawthorne and only 4 points behind Tickhill in 3rd place.

The 2nd XI has had a good season and head into late August in 3rd place in the First Division, with a chance of promotion with 4 games to go. A further positive note, our 2nd XI beat Thorpe Hesley and High Green 1st XI on 2nd August in the semi-final of the Mick Savage Trophy and the final against Frickley Colliery 1st XI will have taken place on Sunday 23rd August at Darfield.

The 3rd XI has had a challenging season, partly due to providing some players to the 2nd XI due to absences and they will be in the re-structuring of leagues 5, 6 and 7 for next year. (Detail as at 15th August)

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

Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane (12 noon, 12.30 for Cup Matches) (see website for other home games for juniors and ladies)

29th August	1st XI	v	Wakefield Thornes 1st XI
30th August	President's Trophy Final Caribbean v Sheffield Centralians (12.30)		
5th Sept	2nd XI	v	Houghton Main 1st XI
12th Sept	1st XI	v	Sheffield Collegiate 1st XI

Contact - whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk

Or visit - https://whitleyhall.play-cricket.com/home

Andrew Robinson

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	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	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	1.45 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

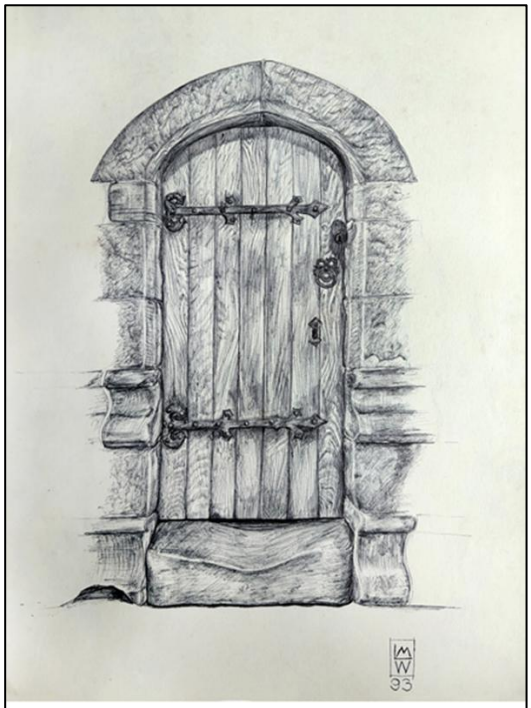
Date	Day	Colour
6th September	14th Sunday after Trinity	Green
13th September	15th Sunday after Trinity / Education Sunday	Green
20th September	16th Sunday after Trinity	Green
27th September	17th Sunday after Trinity	Green

Pre-Reformation altar consecrated by Bishop Leah

The 16th of August saw the restored pre-Reformation altar at the church consecrated by Bishop Leah. A full-scale fine art print of A Last Supper by Sheffield-born artist Lorna May Wadsworth has been installed above the altar

From left to right: Lorna May Wadsworth - Bishop Leah – Rev Tim Gill

Lorna May Wadsworth & Margaret Wadsworth



Lorna's biro drawing of the Choir Door done when she was thirteen.

Click or copy the link below to watch the whole service

https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/onewebmedia/Welcome/Sunday.mp4

St. Mary's – Ecclesfield

Is proud to host

The Steel City Choristers

Fund Raising Concert
On Saturday 19th September
at 7.00pm

Donations on the Door

https://steelcitychoristers.org.uk/

Steel City Choristers - Registered Charity Number 1195909