



T. 1138

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield

Church Magazine May 2024

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

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Thought for the Month

‘This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’” Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

While Rev’d Tim is enjoying his study leave, I am being gifted with an opportunity to experience new challenges and levels of responsibility. I am so very grateful for everyone’s kindness and support during this time – *thank you, all*. Whenever we stand on the threshold of a new chapter in life – whatever that may be – many of us will be concerned with the pace and duration of the journey; the destination; and what we will do when we arrive...

Not long ago, I was sagely reminded that we cannot know or control the future; we can only choose how we will prepare ourselves at the outset of the journey – we can *set off well* – and beyond that, we can trust that God is with us and ahead of us. In the bible, wherever Jesus ventures onto a boat, the destination is rarely as important as the transformative experience of the journey itself.



Sam Ellmore, 'The Journey' (acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 2024)

Last month, I was inspired to express this idea in a painting (above): it is a deliberately impressionistic and *unfinished* painting of a small boat – polished, packed, and ready for a new journey – waiting on the edge of a body of water, which is partially illuminated by a sunrise, trying to break through a mist, which is obscuring any detail from the horizon. The image contains both ‘hope’ and ‘distress’.

I keep this painting in my study as reminder that each time I step into the boat, I do so not knowing if I will end up where I expect to – but I set off with purpose and hope, knowing that God is with me, and ahead of me, on the journey; knowing that I will need to be ready to respond to changes that occur along the way; and knowing that I will undoubtedly be changed by the experience.

I pray that God will give you strength and courage for the weeks ahead.

Peace and blessings.

Rev’d Sam Ellmore, curate

First Words

In May, we continue to celebrate the Easter season, looking forward to the joy and liberation of the festivals of Ascension and Pentecost. We will be continuing our worshipping patterns of **Sunday services** of **Holy Communion** at **10am** and **Evening Prayer** at **6.30pm** (*please note one variation to this below, on Sunday 12th May*), with additional **Holy Communion** services on **Thursdays**, at **9.30am**. **Morning Prayer** (using 'Common Worship') is also said in church most Tuesdays at **8.30am** (with optional silence from **8.15am**). All are welcome.

On **Saturday 4th May**, there will be a **wedding** in church at **12:30**.

On **Sunday 5th May**, there will be two **baptisms** at **12 noon**, after the principal morning service.

On **Saturday 11th May**, there will be '**Prayer Breakfast**' from **9am**, and '**Bereavement Café**' at **10:30am**.

On **Sunday 12th May**, we will have our monthly intergenerational, '**Prayer & Praise**' service at **10am**, and we will celebrate our principal **Holy Communion** service at **6:30pm**.

On **Monday 13th May**, there will be a meeting of the **PCC** in church at **7:30pm**.

On **Monday 20th May**, there will be a meeting of the **Fabric Committee** at **4pm**.

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate



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God in The Arts - Music

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: the Stabat Mater

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on His ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary’s sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let’s focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosses described him as ‘an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.’ For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the Ospedale della Pieta, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper’s grave.

Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of ‘The Four Seasons’ and his setting of the Gloria. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the Stabat Mater. There is a very fine CD recording entitled ‘Vespers of Sorrow’ where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the Magnificat for an imagined celebration of our Lady’s feast.

The Stabat Mater is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting eight verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus. The opening verse, ‘At the cross her station keeping’ captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, ‘Eja Mater, fons amoris’ (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out ‘Mater’ across the heights and depths of the music, leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts. The final verse set by Vivaldi begins ‘Make me feel as thou hast felt,’ and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease.

Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave His mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Julian of Norwich meditated on this motherly love in her Revelations. In chapter 60 she wrote, 'A mother's caring is the closest, nearest and surest for it is the truest... As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may he be!' So the protective care of mother Mary cries out to us in Vivaldi's setting of the Stabat Mater. The closing lines of that poem look to Christ's maternal love like Mother Julian:

'Christ when Thee shall call me hence,
Be my mother, my defence,
Be thy Cross of victory.'



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Mother's Union Meeting – Wednesday 3rd April

Maureen read out the notices – Sue Coldwell's memorial service was held in church on 3.4.24 at 14:00. Condolences to her family. Norma has had her hip replacement operation; we wish her a speedy recovery. Jennifer held the service. Elaine read the passage The Resurrection. Luke Chapter 24 Verses 1-12.

We were privileged to have, PCSO Julia McLaughlin and PCSO Deb Parker, with over 35 years' experience each working with the police force as our guest speakers.

Police Community Support Officer's unique purpose is to provide a link between the local community and Police Officers. The main difference between a PCSO and a Police Officer is a PCSO has not taken the oath and cannot arrest people. They can detain someone for up to 30 minutes if needed. They have a varied role which includes patrolling the streets to holding informal information sharing sessions. PCSO's working hours are 08:00 – 22:00 Monday to Saturday. PCSO's are all about engagement and supporting the local community.

If you would like to know more about what they do, please feel free to contact PCSO Julia McLaughlin on 0746 498 6007 or PCSO Karen Yates on 0758 411 3523.

The web link www.southyorkshire.police.uk enables you to report a crime, traffic incident, domestic abuse etc. it also provides an online chat feature and is worth a look. Thank you to PCSO Julia McLaughlin and PCSO Deb Parker for your time it was thoroughly enjoyable and informative.



Safe Families is a national Christian charity working alongside Sheffield families who are going through a time of crisis in their lives.

Facing life alone is hard, and when you feel there is no one there to support you it is a scary place to be. Therefore, at Safe Families we offer support, hope and belonging to improve the lives of those in your community.

We see isolation as a key issue with almost every family that we work with. Most don't have the support networks many of us take for granted, or if they do, they are often not positive. We seek to combat this by connecting families with local volunteers (mainly from the church). Our volunteers become friends; they care and offer companionship. This could look like going for a cup of coffee and giving someone a call when they are struggling.

Volunteers also introduce families to places where they begin to develop their own friendships. This might be within local community groups such as toddler groups/community/church groups

How could you help us to make a difference?

Safe Families recognises that people in varying circumstances and stages of life will want to support isolated families in different ways, so we have 3 main ways that you could support our work:-

- 1) Volunteer your time as a family friend or resource friend
- 2) Become a financial supporter by giving monthly, as a one off or fundraising for us
- 3) Becoming a prayer partner by signing up to our prayer emails.

If you would like to know more, please visit www.safefamilies.uk or call Gayle on 07917 491440.

Reflecting Faith: the church as a building

Editor: *The Revd Dr Jo White considers the stones and mortar...*

Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

I wanted to look up some information about the fact that today's church buildings, although they may be 'modern', are usually built upon or very close to a previous church building. In other words, they stand quite literally in a long succession of church buildings.

However, on entering 'church building footprint' into the computer search engine, it responded in a related but unexpected, to me, way: *'The Energy Footprint Tool is a great way of monitoring your church building's carbon usage and energy efficiency.'*

A very real issue for today's world! - and one we are very conscious about when we enter the building on a Sunday morning to find, even with the heating turned on for a number of hours, that it is considerably cooler than our own centrally heated homes.

Whilst it is theologically wonderful to have high ceilings, we can see how future remodelling might well lower the ceilings, bring in the walls, and shrink the glassed areas.

And so it has been through the ages – church buildings have constantly been amended. When you look carefully at a church that is more than a few hundred years old, in any part of the world, you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

This month:

Have a look at a couple of local churches and spot the changes in their buildings over the years. Why do you think they took place? What changes would you make and why?

Antoni Gaudi - Aware that the Sagrada Familia would never be finished in his lifetime

"There is no reason to regret that I cannot finish the church. I will grow old but others will come after me. What must always be conserved is the spirit of the work, but its life has to depend on the generations it is handed down to and with whom it lives and is incarnated."

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By

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St James the Least of All

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

On the perils of building a kitchen in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The weather in March and most of April has been exceptionally wet affecting many of the cricket fields in South Yorkshire. As a consequence, The Yorkshire ECB Southern Premier League decided to delay the season start from 20th and 21st April with the games to be played later in the season. Unfortunately, continued problems have resulted in the Whitley 1st XI home game on 27th April being cancelled with the 3rd XI match also cancelled. The 2nd XI managed to play away at Rotherham Town and achieved a solid victory.

Our overseas player, Australian Harry Wood, has arrived and we all wish him welcome and hope he settles in and soon feels at home.

The club has three senior teams, 5 junior teams and a ladies team so there is plenty of scope for anyone wishing to join us. Please make contact.

The club is also part of the ECB initiative to help children to learn cricket and will again be part of the All-Stars for children from 5 – 8 and Dynamos for children from 8 – 11. Please contact us or go to the ECB website: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/>

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

Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane - 12 Noon start

4 th May	2 nd XI	v	Tickhill 2 nd XI
11 th May	1 st XI	v	Barnsley 1 st XI
18 th May	2 nd XI	v	Upper Haugh 1 st XI
25 th May	2 nd XI	v	Darfield 1 st XI
1 st June	1 st XI	v	Sheffield Collegiate 1 st XI
Sun 2 nd June	1 st XI		T20 Cup with Elsecar and Tickhill
8 th June	2 nd XI	v	Wakefield 2 nd XI

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592

Andrew Robinson

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

Date	Day	Colour
Sunday 5th May	6th Sunday of Easter	White
Sunday 12th May	7th Sunday of Easter	White
Sunday 19th May	Pentecost	Red
Sunday 26th May	Trinity Sunday	Green
Sunday 2nd June	First Sunday after Trinity	Green



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Creative Writing Group	First Wednesday of the month 6-8pm
Chairobics	Thursdays 11:45 – 12:30pm

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From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 14th April

Emily Ann Robinson
Cornelia Grace Warburton

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

Marriages

Monday 8th April

Thomas Gill & Shannon Hadfield

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

Funerals

Monday 22nd April

Angela Thurlby (72)

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

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Judges

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

Following Joshua's death, a generation grew up who didn't know God (Judges 2:11) and 'every man did what was right in his own eyes' (17:6, 21:25). The book of Judges is a study in God's response to a permissive society.

The book takes its name from the *deliverers* that God raised up during this time. God empowered both men and women with His Spirit to rule and deliver the people. They included Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and his son Abimelech, Jephthah and Samson. The judges operated in the 350 years (from 1050 BC) between Joshua's death and the monarchy.

We see a recurring cycle of apostasy, oppression, penitence and deliverance played out. When the people fell into sin, God sent an enemy nation to oppress them. As a result, they cried to God for help, and He responded by raising up a deliverer to free them.

The saddest words in Judges are those applied to Samson, *'He did not know that the LORD had left him'* (16:20). Rejecting God in our lives can begin with tolerating those things that are not in harmony with His will for our lives. The people's toleration of the beliefs of their pagan neighbours led to a conformity in life and worship with them. Yet God waited for His people to return to Him, when He responded with grace to deliver them.

Gideon stands out as somebody who was unwilling to compromise with the surrounding culture. Despite his weaknesses, God used him to deliver Israel from the Midianite invaders. We read: *'the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon'*, lit: *'the Spirit clothed Himself with Gideon'* (6:34). God's grace and faithfulness is at work in those who are prepared to trust Him.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Finding Expression – and God’s Response – in Lament

The question of suffering comes up regularly in discussions about science and faith. I once visited a school to speak to some of the older teenagers. One of the pupils had sadly passed away from cancer a few weeks before and his classmates asked, “How could God let this happen?” Of course, these young people’s questions about where God was in this situation were important. But the chaplain also gently reminded the class that their friend’s family were Christians, and that they were finding that their experience of loss had brought them even closer to God than before.

One way that grief can bring us near to God is when we share it with Him, telling Him exactly how we feel. The biblical writers had no scruples about expressing themselves to God, giving vent to emotions we often hold back in a church context. As my colleague Roger Abbott has written in his book on *‘Unanswered’ Prayer*, “Let us not confuse reverence with spiritual prudishness. Perhaps honesty, the way it feels, is precisely what God is waiting to hear from us.”

About one third of the Psalms express some form of grief. The book of Job is a series of responses to one man’s suffering as he loses his children, property and health in quick succession. Lamentations is also one long outpouring of sadness at what happened to Israel under the Babylonians. Some of the prophets, especially Jeremiah, also express their pain at these sort of events – which reflect something of God’s own feelings at the suffering of His people.

Most of these biblical authors would have had access to Scriptures that encouraged them to turn to God whatever the circumstances. Emboldened by their knowledge of His character and promises, these divinely inspired writers even express their anger to God about the things He lets happen, or complain that He seems to act unfairly or ignore them in their plight. Not only do these people let out all their feelings without fear of reprisal, but they also clearly expect a helpful answer. Some record a resolution to their troubles – often simply because God speaks to and comforts them, enabling them to keep going.

The biblical writers demonstrated that God can handle pretty much anything – anger, blame, bitterness – if we are actively looking to Him for help. As Pete Greig of the 24-7 prayer movement has written, “pain that is not expressed can never be transformed”.

With Trinity Sunday (26th May) to remember ...

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - *John Wesley*



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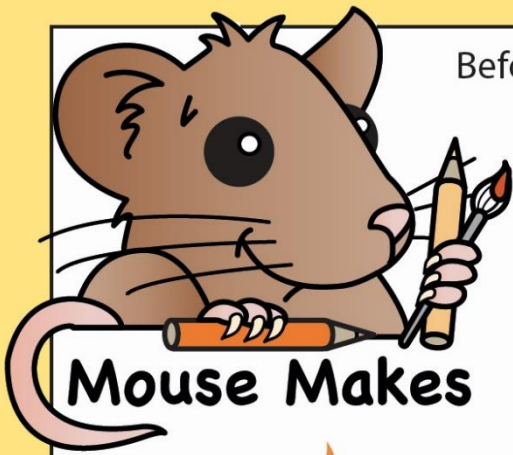
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Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*

*...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."*



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

The other day spotted an albino Dalmatian. It's the least I could do for him.

Dear optimist, pessimist, and realist – while you guys were busy arguing about the glass of wine, I drank it! Sincerely, the opportunist.

Once you realise there are no calories listed on a bottle of wine, life becomes a lot more tolerable.

I told a joke on a Zoom meeting the other day but nobody laughed. Turns out I'm not remotely funny.

Not to brag, but I was alive when you could **Slam the phone down** to hang up on someone. It was spectacular.

What I if told you

You the read first line wrong?

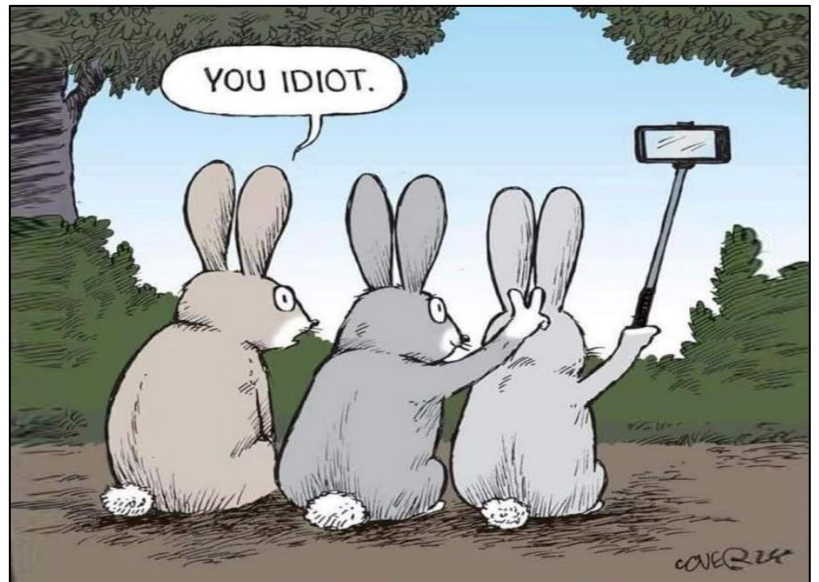
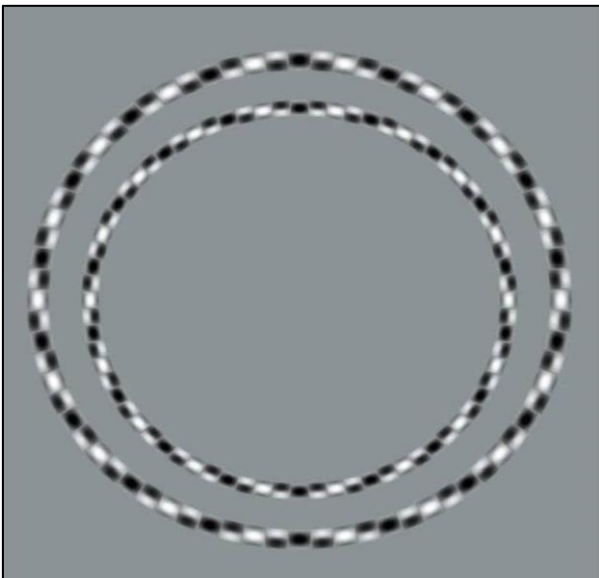
Same the with second line

And also the third...



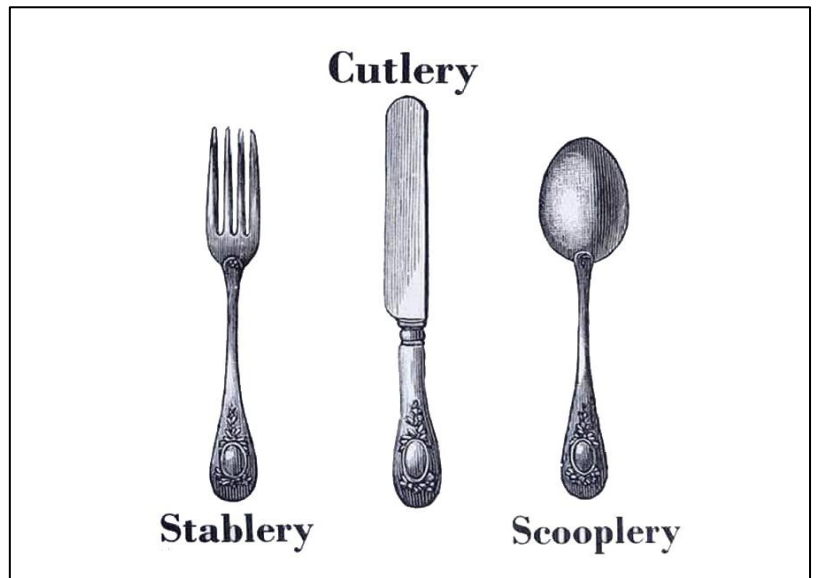
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Prayer for the Month

**Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever.**

'Collect for Ascension Day', Common Worship: Collects and Post Communions © The Archbishops' Council (2000)

**Spirit of truth:
guide us into all the truth;
consume all the lies
that shroud the world in hate;
pray in us
with sighs too deep for words;
and let the victim's voice ring out
with hope for a new world;
through Jesus Christ, who goes to the right hand of God.
Amen.**

'Collect for Pentecost' (Year B), Prayers for an Inclusive Church © Steven Shakespeare (2009)

This is, genuinely, one of my favourite seasons of the Christian calendar: as we journey through Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, we are reminded that we are invited to be *Easter People* – Children of God, and joint heirs with Christ; it is also a reminder, as we read through Acts, that the story of God's chosen people is not finished(!) I have shared two seasonally appropriate collect prayers above (for Ascension day and Pentecost, respectively), which both speak of a living God, who calls us forward towards brave new horizons. If you read them one after the other, notice the shifting of focus and attention between 'the throne of heaven' and 'the world' in this present moment in our history.

I sometimes worry that we are not as present to, or connected with, each other as we used to be, and that the value of 'community' is being lost. I regularly pray that we would see *more* love and *less* division in our world, our communities, and in our homes. So, I rejoice whenever I encounter such moments, which assure me that God's Spirit is alive and well, and that we remain capable of learning and changing. I also delight in those moments when the value of community and our interconnected stories are being rediscovered afresh. It brings me great pleasure to share with you that a **May Queen** will be joining us in church for our 10am service on Sunday 12th May – marking a return to a community tradition, of which I have heard many fondly told stories, and I look forward to experiencing for myself.

In this season, we will see the church decorations turn **red** for Pentecost (Sunday 19th May) – this is one of the rarer liturgical colours in the church, used to represent the sacrificial love of the Cross, and/or the fire and joy of the Holy Spirit, and new life in the world. You might like to respond by wearing your most red/fiery 🔥 clothing and accessories during *this* weekend to join in the celebration of God's continuing work in our world (facepainting: *optional*). However you choose to celebrate this colourful time of year, I pray that you will have a joyful and blessed May.

Rev'd Sam Ellmore, curate

Time to pray for your church wardens

In the aftermath of our Annual Church Meetings, David Pickup, a solicitor, considers church wardens...

O Eternal God... enlighten with Thy Grace the Wardens of this church, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek Thy Holy Will... Amen.

O Lord, ...we beseech Thee to bless all who, ...give themselves to the service of their fellow worshipers. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall... that they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy... Amen
(Prayers from the C of E)

Churchwardens have a vital and historical role in the life of the church. They are elected by the parish, not just the members of the church. Anyone in the parish can vote for them, not just people on the church's electoral roll.

So, if you want to be a churchwarden, just invite your neighbours on the day of the parish meetings in church! Wardens used to have a significant role in the wider life of the parish with responsibilities for charity, poor relief and even bridges and roads.

Their church duties today include: - Maintaining order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service - Being entrusted with the property of the church - Having a duty to cooperate with the vicar - Encouraging parishioners in practice of "true religion"

Quite a job! These are their legal duties, but I also like the prayer above as it reminds us to pray for them to seek God's will, not theirs or ours, but God's, and to strengthen the weak and encourage the fallen. They may feel most of the time that they are weak and have fallen, but they are equipped with our support and prayers to look after other people who need strength or support - which is probably most of us at times!



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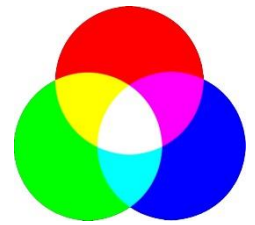
Help needed in the church garden

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

Why your television is like the Trinity

by the Revd Michael Harding



Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB". These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours.

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on it the colour that you see. You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue.

Take away any One member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So -

It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

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The Gardening Year – May

Conservatory-A Conservatory can be used just like a greenhouse! in a small conservatory you can build a long shelf to act like a windowsill ,to grow peppers, chillies and other plants that like a lot of heat. On the floor you can grow tomatoes in growbags and allow them to grow tall by supporting them with canes or a trellis. A conservatory is a wonderful way to make maximum use of available sunlight.

Up, Down & Sideways, if ground space is limited, you're going to need to think creatively. It might be that you need large rectangular containers or raised beds on the ground with a platform above for growbags to make maximum use of limited space. You can grow shade lovers in the shadow of sun lovers such as allowing kale to grow underneath beans.

Vertical gardening - vertical gardening is very important when you don't have a large surface area. Broad beans, Runner beans, Peas, Courgettes, Tomatoes and Baby Squash grow really well with support. You can either put these in containers and support them with canes or you can build a structure from wood and put netting across to allow plants to clamber and climb across it.

Doorsteps, do you only have a south facing front door? then put a couple of containers on it, and you could grow some food! You could plant a large container either side of your front door with herbs or salad for daily picking. Add a couple of hanging baskets of tomatoes and you've got salad throughout the summer. Put a window box along the front window of your home for some edible flowers and you'll have a colourful and healthy meal ready to eat Attach a planter to the wall for Strawberries and you can enjoy a delicious pudding too! Vegetables, be ready to cover potatoes if frost is forecast, sow main crop carrots if not already done. Prepare sites for outdoor crops if you wish to grow outdoor crops of Marrows, Squashes, Pumpkins or Courgettes, prepare the site early in the month by digging over the ground and adding plenty of rotted manure or compost on it. During the second half of the month sow runner beans two to three-inch-deep plant the beans with the two eyes on the concave side of the bean down in the soil as this is where the roots emerge from.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – May

Vegetables - Asparagus, Broccoli, Carrots, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, New Potatoes, Peas, Radishes, Rocket, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress, Wild Nettles

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs - Basil, Chervil, Chives, Coriander, Dill, Oregano, Mint, Nasturtium, Parsley (Curly), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Tarragon

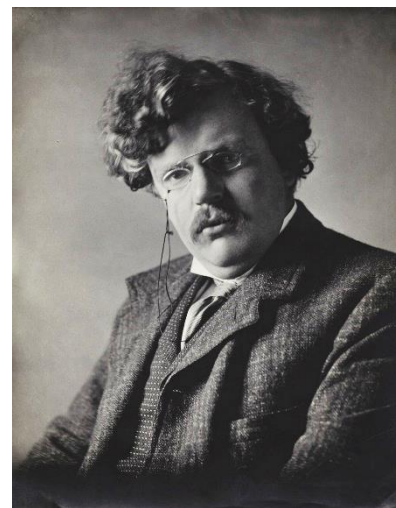
Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

Fish - Cod, Coley, Crab, Haddock, Langoustine, Plaice, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Whelks, Whitebait

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

The man who created Father Brown

The British writer G K Chesterton was born 150 years ago, on 29th May 1874, in Kensington, West London. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father Brown stories, popular now through their adaptation for television.



He thought of himself as a journalist with good reason, composing 30 years of weekly columns for the Illustrated London News and more elsewhere, but he was a prolific writer in many areas, writing 100 books and contributing to 200 others, as well as composing short stories, essays and poems and creating Father Brown.

He was a tall man who weighed in at over 20 stone, and he was notoriously absent-minded – once contacting his wife, Frances, to say: “Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?” Unsurprisingly, he did a great deal of writing while waiting at stations.

He was a deep thinker, usually getting the better of the many prominent men he argued against, but almost invariably retaining their goodwill, since he was a genial and witty opponent.

An “orthodox Christian” who espoused Roman Catholicism (moving from High Anglicanism) because he felt it was the best resistance to fads of the age, he was against both socialism and capitalism, materialism, determinism and “spineless agnosticism”. He fought for freedom and justice.

Chesterton never went to college but did attend art school. Extremely quotable and read now by too few people, he composed some near-perfect lines, concluding for example that “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried”.

Father Brown is a fictional Roman Catholic priest and amateur detective. He is featured in 53 short stories by English author G. K. Chesterton, published between 1910 and 1936.[1] Father Brown solves mysteries and crimes using his intuition and keen understanding of human nature. Chesterton loosely based him on the Rt Rev. Msgr John O'Connor (1870–1952), a parish priest in Bradford, who was involved in Chesterton's conversion to Catholicism in 1922. Since 2013, the character has been portrayed by Mark Williams in the ongoing BBC Television Series Father Brown.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Brown_\(2013_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Brown_(2013_TV_series))

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

D	E	B	T	O	R		S	H	A	K	E	N			
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S		I		A		C		X			P		A		
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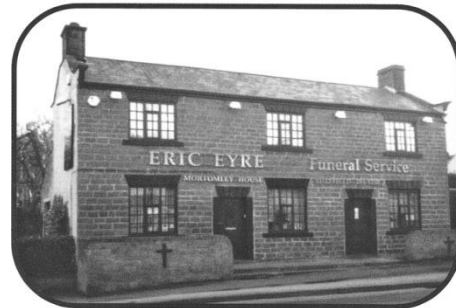
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It is time to eat Crab

In sandwiches, with pasta, in salads, with chilli - there are a multitude of ways to enjoy this most versatile of seafoods. White crab meat (from the claws) rivals, or exceeds, lobster for flavour and succulence and needs very little fiddling with to create masterful dishes such as Crab Salad.

Crabs first evolved in the Jurassic period (the horseshoe crab dates back over 200 million years). They have been caught and eaten throughout human history. Crabs are crustaceans belonging to the order Decapoda (which includes lobsters and prawns). There are around 4,500 species of crab, ranging in size from the 5mm wide pea crab to the Japanese spider crab with a leg span in excess of 2m.



Nutrition - Crab is a good source of a number of trace minerals including selenium, which counteracts cancer and chromosome damage as well as increasing our resistance to viral and bacterial infections. It contains useful amounts of B vitamins, iron and zinc. Purchasing a live crab will ensure maximum freshness. Whole cooked crabs or fresh crab meat from a trusted supplier are perfectly adequate alternatives. Live crabs should be refrigerated and cooked on the day of purchase. Cooked fresh crab meat will be fine in the fridge for 3 or 4 days and can be frozen.

Other uses – Chitin (pronounced kite-in), a substance derived from the shells of crabs and lobsters, has anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties and is used in wound dressings and burn treatments.

Preparation - The RSPCA publishes detailed instructions on how to humanely kill crabs and other crustacea. Cook crabs by boiling - 20 minutes for crabs up to 1kg and 10 minutes per kg after that. Once cooked and cool enough to handle, twist off the claws and legs. Knock the underside of the body on the chopping board and push your thumbs on the crab's back to prise the body section away from the shell. Remove and discard the stomach sac (just behind the mouth) and the soft gills (dead man's fingers) - these are readily identifiable and will come away easily. Use a teaspoon to scoop out the brown meat from inside the shell, not forgetting the crevices where the claws and legs join the body. Crack the legs and claws with a rolling pin or nutcracker and prise out the white meat using a skewer. See - <https://leiths.com/howto/how-to-prepare-a-cooked-crab/>

Online Recipes

Delia Online has several good recipe suggestions
<https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/main-ingredient/crab>

The Independent has a nice recipe for Crab Cakes – yummy
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/recipes/bitesized-crab-cakes-2161333.html>

Walter Purkis & Sons – Crab Noodle Salad
<https://www.walterpurkisandsons.com/crab-noodle-salad/>

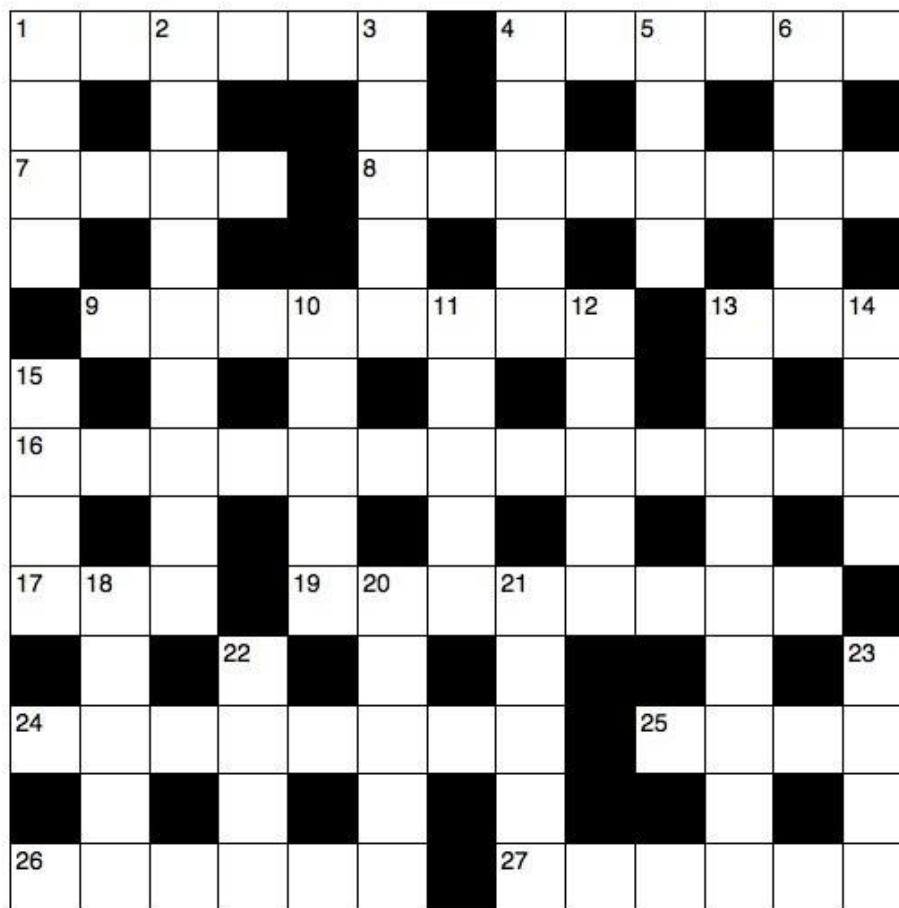
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



The Pentecost by [El Greco](https://useum.org/artwork/Untitled-El-Greco-91) <https://useum.org/artwork/Untitled-El-Greco-91>

This work depicts the moment when the Holy Ghost, in the form of flames, rests on the Virgin and the Apostles on Pentecost day in Jerusalem, as is told in the book of Acts (2: 1-5). The bald, bearded Apostle who looks out at the viewer from the right of the canvas has been identified as a self-portrait, or as a portrait of the artist's friend, Antonio de Covarrubias. Along with other paintings in the Prado Museum, this work was painted as part of the main altarpiece for the church of the Augustine College of María de Aragón in Madrid. A sketch or autograph reduction can be found in the Zogheb collection in Paris. The signature is on the second step, in Greek letters. It was redone during an old restoration. In 1596 El Greco was commissioned to paint the high altar of the Colegio de la Encarnación (Madrid), an Augustinian seminary better known by the name of its founder, Doña María de Córdoba y Aragón (1539-1593). The central part of the bottom section of the altarpiece featured The Annunciation, which had the Adoration of the Shepherd (now in Bucharest) and the Baptism of Christ on either side of it, scenes of the Resurrection and of Pentecost. With the exception of Pentecost, each of these subjects had been painted previously by El Greco, some of them during his Italian period, However, here they are taken up again from a perspective that is particularly original; a perspective that is particularly original; a perspective that is steeped in a more "expressionist" spirituality, and which from 1600 became even more personal and disconcerting, intentionally distanced from contemporary painting. El Greco painted the scenes in small spaces, emphasizing the vertical format, and bathing them in a ghostly light that enhances the unreality of the figures, which are arranged in a very marked foreshortening and have very expressive features. The colours-cold, intense and contrasting- are applied very loosely over powerful anatomical constructions and are perfect examples of El Greco's highly personal style in the final stretch of his career. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons painting by El Greco (Museum: Museo del Prado)

Chapeltown & District Probus Club



We were expecting to welcome Chief Fire and Safety Officer Paul Salter on 10th April but he had to cancel at short notice due to illness in the family. We were very grateful to welcome back Stephen Gay who stepped in at short notice. Stephen continued his story about the East Coast railway line, starting at York where his last talk finished and almost getting to Edinburgh but finishing at Berwick on Tweed. His interest in the railways and getting up early or staying late to achieve the perfect photo is fascinating. He covers the construction history as well as finding important items just off the main route

which most people know nothing about. He promises that next time, he really will reach Edinburgh and maybe go as far as Aberdeen.

Our visit to Highgrove, now taking place on 3rd and 4th September, is practically full although there will be a “waiting list” for anyone willing to see if there are any people who drop out before we leave. Our thanks to Ray Sanderson for working so hard to fill the places on the re-scheduled visit.

We continue to welcome retired and semi-retired men including those still working but with time on their hands, Please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

Next month, we will welcome back Paul Adey who will give another of his well researched talks, this time on the history of oil.

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

8th May – Paul Adey – “The History of Oil”

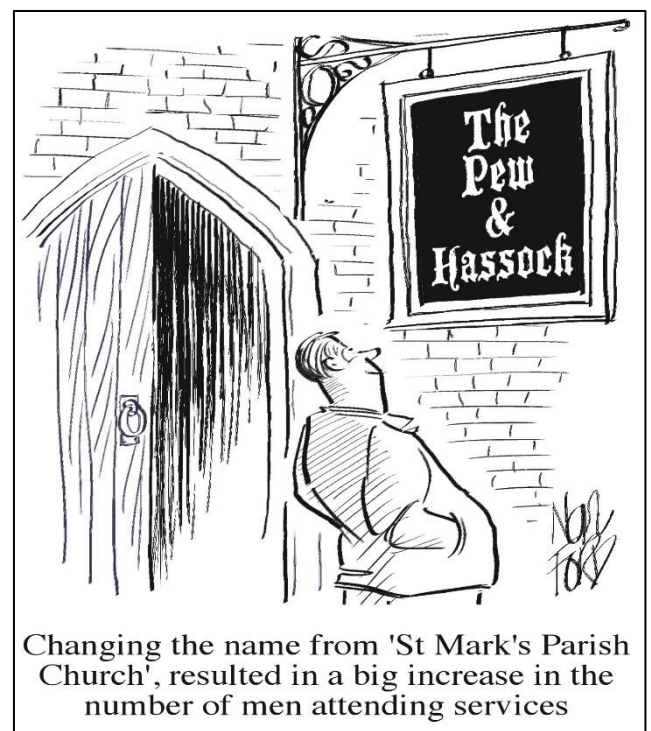
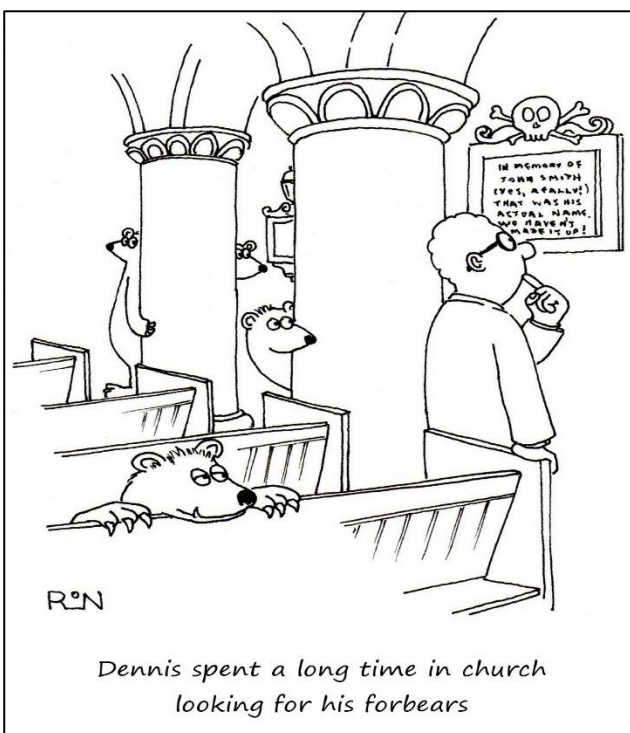
12th June - Nick Johnson – “ More Tales from the Press Box”

10th July – Mike Ogden – “Beyond the Blue Horizon”

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

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

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for May 2024- By Daphne Kitching

Dear Lord,

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?" May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,
In Jesus' name. **Amen**

In The Year that King Uzziah Died

Isaiah the prophet's eyes were wide
The year that King Uzziah died;
He saw the Lord enthroned on high
With six-winged seraphs hov'ring by!

One pair of wings they used to fly,
One wing they held before each eye,
One pair they placed before their feet
Waiting beside God's royal seat.

"Thrice Holy is the Lord of Hosts!"
They cried aloud from lofty posts,
"His glory seen the whole world wide!"
The temple shook from side to side.

The prophet cried, "Oh, woe is me!
"Such things I should not hear or see!
"I am a man of lips unclean,
"And yet His glory I have seen!"

A seraph noted his distress
With a hot coal his lips did press
"Now that is done", he heard him say
"Your guilt has surely gone away!"

"Whom shall I send?" God's voice was heard
"Who will go to bring my word?"
Isaiah bowed to hear God's plea:
"Here I am, O Lord, send me."

By Nigel Beeton (from Isaiah 6:1-8)

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: One of the most dramatic passages in the Bible can be found in the first eight verses of Isaiah chapter 6 – a narrative of the glory of God and His seraphim, of forgiveness of sin, and of a servant obediently answering a call. And yet it all starts with the innocuous words: 'In the year that King Uzziah died'. So, to us, 739 or 740 BC.

A poetic prayer for Pentecost

Happy Birthday to all Christians,
This is where it all began;
Out from here went the apostles,
Taking Christ to everyone.

Able now to speak to nations,
With the good news to proclaim;
Crucified for our salvation,
Hear His message, learn His name.

Out they went to every corner,
Fearless as they spread the word;
Bringing light to those in darkness,
Giving hope to all that heard.

So must we with every blessing,
Follow in the steps they trod;
Showing love and help and kindness,
All come from the breath of God.

By Alan Millichip

Prove it - By Megan Carter

Prove it they cried, that You're the Messiah
Wouldn't He come as a conquering king?
Not as a poor man riding a donkey
How do you think we'd believe such a thing?

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?
To prove of His love for all of mankind
Believe it or not it, it's all up to you.

Contact Details for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm
Leader - Debbie
Tel: 0786 047 1793

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson
Tel: 0798 344 2742

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall
Tel: 0114 246 8866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall
Thursday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 246 1289

Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre
Monday 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Secretary - Emma Addy
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between
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Ecclesfield Cubs

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

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Monday 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Leader - Joanna Steel
0797 263 7908
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Shane Porteous
shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 0782 411 2584
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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

Chapelton and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month
in Grenoside Community Centre
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow
chapelton.probus@gmail.com
We are now face to face see
www.chapelton-probus.org.uk

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



ECCLESFIELD IN BLOOM

ARE HOLDING A

COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE

at ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ECCLESFIELD

on **Saturday 18th May 2024**
between 10am and 12 noon

COFFEE/TEA, CAKES,
PLANTS,
CARDS and RAFFLE



Everyone welcome

92nd Sheffield Guides present

MAY QUEEN

2024



FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2024
SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024

AT THE GATTY HALL
ECCLESFIELD
S35 9XY

STARTS 7PM
ADULTS £5
CHILDREN £3

1ST HALF

SONGS, DANCES AND SKETCHES BY THE GUIDES

2ND HALF

PROCESSION AND CROWNING OF QUEEN BOUGAINVILLEA

FOR TICKET DETAILS PLEASE EMAIL
ECCLESFIELDGUIDES@GMAIL.COM