

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for April 2012

60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

First Words...

Holy Week And Easter – This year we commemorate and celebrate the season with the following services

1 st April Palm Sunday	10.00 am Parish Communion (with the Blessing of Palms) 6.30 pm The Crucifixion by Stainer
2 nd April (Monday)	7.30 pm Holy Communion with Address
3 rd April (Tuesday)	7.30 pm Holy Communion with Address
4 th April (Wednesday)	7.30 pm Holy Communion with Address
5 th April Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy
6 th April Good Friday	12.00 – 3.00 pm Prayers around the Cross (Including 2.00 – 3.00 pm Good Friday Liturgy)
7 th April Holy Saturday	6.00 pm Vigil of Readings and Prayers
8 th April Easter Day	8.30 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Easter Liturgy

Wedding – April marks the beginning of the Wedding Season here in Ecclesfield. Please pray for all couples getting married this year.

Daniel Hartley



Collect for Easter Day

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.

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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

The Vicars' Letter - The Resurrection in Difficult Times

On 8th April we celebrate Easter Day. The darkness and desolation of Holy Week comes to an end as Christ is raised from the dead and the power of death is defeated. In churches throughout the land there will be an overwhelming spirit of joy and celebration. Here in Ecclesfield we will gather at 10 a.m. in darkness to welcome the new light into our Church. The Easter Candle will be brought into Church and Christ will be proclaimed as the light of the world.

Yet we need to ask ourselves if the world will notice. Will Easter Day be noticed? Will the resurrection of Christ be noticed? If these things aren't noticed, does it matter? You'd expect me to say yes, it does matter. I won't disappoint – I think it does indeed matter, it matters a lot.

So why does it matter? The fact that people aren't queuing up to break the door down to Church at 10 o'clock on Easter morning doesn't really bother me. It would be great if they were and here at St Mary's, Ecclesfield we are very much committed to growing the Body of Christ. No, what concerns me is that religious festivals are increasingly seen as matters of private observance rather than public celebration. In the busyness of our secular world there seems to be little time to observe a "break from the norm". How long before the supermarkets open on Easter Day and Christmas Day? How long before any opportunity for family togetherness is completely eroded by the relentless extension of an unaccountable commercialism?

We seem to live in an age where received practices and traditions are seen as irrelevant and anachronistic. Every institution is being remade according to what fits the desires of the age rather than allowing the desires of the age to be tempered, informed and enriched by received wisdoms.

Easter provides a richness of received traditions and practices that have drifted away in our age: simnel cakes, egg decorating and rolling, roast lamb for lunch. These shared practices helped to forge identity and cement relationships. They embodied values beyond those of simply purchasing and consuming chocolate eggs.

So what is needed? I would suggest that there is an intrinsic problem for the society of our age. The old rituals and observances appear to be drifting away but they are not being replaced by new ones. Rituals and observances cannot be invented, they need to evolve. The absence of new rituals and observances speaks volumes. It speaks of a challenge and opportunity for the Church. It presents opportunities for us, as part of a wider coalition, to reinvigorate the traditions of the past to help cement the identity of the present and the future. If the Church is to be more than a cosy club for people who like that sort of a thing then it, then we, need to seek out those who share our concern for the conservation of order and the cultivation of virtue. For many years the Church of England has drifted from one initiative to another, desperate to be relevant. Well what could be more relevant than retaking our place at the heart of a national movement? Now that would be a good Easter message!

Daniel Hartley

The Bishops' Letter, April 2012

‘Putting Christ back into Easter.’

During February there was a concerted campaign encouraging us to buy ‘The Real Easter Egg’. The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box and give money to charity. It was first launched in 2011 and supermarkets and independent retailers across the country were inundated with calls from customers searching for it. Their limited supplies sold out within days. The record demand demonstrated that people weren’t afraid to talk about faith at Easter and so it was disappointing when in 2012 leading supermarkets reduced, rather than increased, their orders.



It was perhaps another sign that for many, including major retail outlets, the real meaning of Easter can, and often is, eclipsed by other interests. For many the true meaning of Easter has been lost or forgotten. So I want to encourage you to not only buy the ‘Real Easter Egg’ but to make Easter Real for others by continually talking about your faith, what Easter means to you, and by putting Christ back into Easter.

The trouble for us is that we know the story, we know the end result. It’s a bit like watching a television recoding of a big football match when you already know the result. It robs you of much of the excitement and suspense because the games really over and you know which side has won. You can’t re-run the drama. The Easter story isn’t about gazing at an action replay, but taking part in a fresh game. The Easter story is about going forward into a new relationship with Christ. He overcame death; it was a victory over hatred and trickery and all human weakness and wickedness that combined to put him to death.

Mary could say ‘I have seen the Lord’. The truth is that he had risen, transformed her and the apostles and can do the same for us. Jesus is alive now and by faith we can say ‘I have seen the Lord and know him’. Nothing surely can be more exciting than that and if that’s true why would we want to keep it to ourselves. This Easter let us proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and risen and let us not be afraid to proclaim it openly and positively as we put Jesus back into Easter and help others celebrate ‘The Real Easter’.

+Peter

MU Meeting Wednesday 7th March

Speaker: Norma Priest

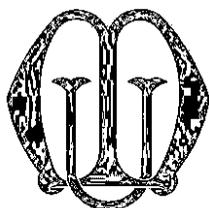
We began our meeting with the hymn “An army of ordinary people”. Norma spoke about the gifts God has given to all of us ordinary people, and how we might recognise them. What are our gifts? This we may question, we might think that we are not worthy of having any gifts, or not capable and feel others can do better than we can. There are many reasons. If we look to the bible we see how Moses was reluctant to obey, but God used him. Jacob, David, Paul and the disciples to name just a few, but look how God was able to use them. The truth is God can work with anyone.

We then discussed what we thought our gifts were and discovered that we do not always recognise them. Anything could make us feel this way. We need to be aware that God can and does encourage us through others. So be open to suggestions. At times we all need a little push. So let go and let God help you. Who knows what we can achieve.

We have all been given different gifts but we need to use them, or we may lose them. How can we use and develop our gifts? We all have life skills, but are sometimes called to use them in a different way. We might use our knowledge to work with children, the elderly or in caring or practical ways and in areas we are not used to. Even our own MU Branch will not survive without people stepping out in faith. Christians are never too old to do God’s work. One of the greatest gifts is to pray for others. Prayer and encouragement can take us from thinking we cannot do it – to might try – to stepping out.

In his grace, God, has given us all many different gifts. Let us ask Him to help us use them.

E Holland



Interested in Joining?

The Mother’s Union meet in The Gatty Hall on the 1st Wednesday of month at 1:00 pm - Contact: Maureen Lambert: (0114) 2469690



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An Island Parish

The church St Philip and St James – Mallorca - part 2

John Bateman had turned one room in to a small chapel or oratory and there he and his family, together with his junior partner William Hope would gather every Sunday for services. The services were conducted by William Green one of the senior engineers in the company who is thought to have been a reader. There is no evidence to confirm this but it would account for his being in charge of the services.

Part of the works of John Bateman and William Hope's company was the building of a bridge spanning a canal over which the Alcudia to C'an Piafort road now runs. The canal was also built by the same company and they are still known today as the 'English bridge' and 'English canal'.

Unknown to most however are the ruins of a small church amongst the trees and quite near to the English bridge. These ruins are believed to be the remains of the first English-built church on the island of Mallorca. John Bateman constructed the church in order that his catholic workmen might worship close to their work. They were of course local workmen native to the island who also worshipped there.

John Bateman only made one stipulation; that the church for the native catholic workmen should be dedicated to St Luis Gonzaga.

No record can be found of this choice of name, but it may be that his son was called Luis. John Bateman lived and died a practising Anglican, however his son Luis married a local girl and in so doing adopted his wife's religion and became a catholic.

The Anglican services ceased and were not restarted until the 1920's

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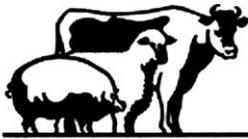
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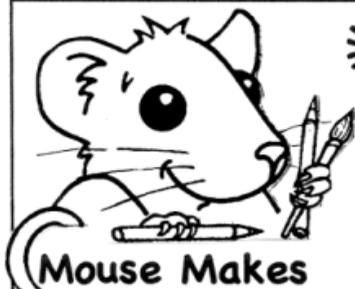
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Jesus Christ is risen today!
our triumphant holy day,
who did once upon the cross
suffer to redeem our loss.

Sing we to our God above
praise eternal as his love,
for the Lord from death is raised
Father, Spirit, Son be praised!
ALLELUIA!



Into Jerusalem
Luke 19:28-48



The Last Supper
Luke 22:7-38

glue to 'Betrayed'



Betrayed
Luke 22:1-3, 39-53



Condemned
Luke 22:54-23:25



Crucified
Luke 23:26-49

glue to 'Buried'



Buried
Luke 23:50-56

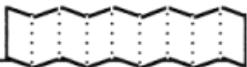


Risen
Luke 24:1-12



Jesus is Alive!
Luke 24:13-53

Make a mini Easter book: Cut out the strips, glue them together then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



Apr12

Will You Remember Them - IRAN

Christians Arrested But Church Continues To Grow

Iranian Christians have requested prayer following the latest series of arrests of believers in cities across Iran, including Ahvaz, Shiraz, Kermanshah and Isfahan.

Arrests continue to be random and widespread, often following coordinated raids on the house church movement. On 21st Feb. 13 people were arrested in a raid on a house church in Kermanshah. Of these, three have not yet been released. Another believer was arrested on 17th March 201, also in Kermanshah, was sentenced to three years imprisonment by the Revolutionary Court for actions against national security.

Seven others are being held because of their Christian faith or activities. Pastor Yousef, currently under sentence of death for apostasy, is believed to be still alive, despite recent rumours that his execution was due to go ahead imminently.

Christians in Iran are embattled and under pursuit. But the church continues to grow at explosive rates. The number of young Muslims coming to Christ in Iran is growing faster and faster. In spite of the clear risks, the house church movement continues to meet in secret. Some Christians even dare to share their faith on the street.

In the early 1970's, there were only about 200 Christians from a Muslim background in Iran. Today, the estimated number is 370,000, despite the fact that the traditional Assyrian and Armenian church is prohibited from reaching out to Farsi-speaking Muslims.

Since the 2009 elections, some Iranians have become disillusioned with Islam, the country's official religion, and openness to the gospel has grown. Before the revolution of 1979 Iran had a secular government and the population's reaction to the revolution was a religious one. Iran then was the right soil for The Islamic Revolution and became a hard line Islamic state.

It would seem that many in Iran are once again disillusioned as the hard face of Islamic leadership and law seeks to dictate and control their lives. People are turning away from Islam. Christianity is no longer seen as a religion, or a political system of the West. The people of Iran are hungry for hope, for the message of the gospel.

Please Pray

- That justice would be done in the case of Christians currently under arrest.
- For the continued growth of the church in Iran, especially among believers from a Muslim background.
- For all work and witness by Christians in Iran.

JD

History of Ecclesfield Scout Group Centenary Year 2012



After Baden Powell had started Scouting in 1907 it grew quickly in popularity but was limited to boys of 11 years upwards. However, it soon became apparent that younger brothers were keen to get in on the act and so in 1916 he started the Wolf Cubs Section for boys of 8 and over.

By October 1918 Ecclesfield had a Cub Pack of 15 boys and the Scout Section numbered 38 boys. This is the first mention of Cubs in the village so it seems likely that, once again, Ecclesfield Cub Pack is one of the oldest in the area still going strong. Miss C.M. Baxter was the first Cub Master and was presented with a warrant in 1919.

Quotes from our log book October 1917 tells us that 3 scouts were sent to do war work gathering flax at the Scout Flax Camp at Holbeach while several others helped local farmers. The log book also tells us that the Scouts have been given instructions on Electricity, Basket Making, Signalling, Ambulance and future lectures were arranged for Astronomy, Bee Keeping and the Motor Car Engine. The possibility of setting up a rifle range was to be looked into, (obviously Health and Safety had yet to be invented).

The amount of camps, parades etc., that they got through in those early years is truly amazing. In 1920 alone there was a Divisional parade at Ecclesfield Church (450 Scouts present) with a record 'turn out' of our Group, 4 Officers, 30 Scouts and 33 Cubs. June brought a Northern Divisional camp in Wentworth Park, a Whitsuntide camp at Bradfield plus 5 Scouts attending an International Jamboree in London and 2 Scouts J. Walker and H. Hague actually taking part, and finally another camp at Filey.

To be continued.

Ecclesfield Scout Group – 28th February 2012.

The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers enjoyed a special evening on the 28th February when the church bell ringers did a 40 minute peal especially to celebrate our Scout Group Centenary. We met outside the church and listened for half an hour then went inside and had photographs taken for The Star Newspaper. An unusual and lovely way of celebrating our Centenary,

Thank You Bell Ringers.

Ecclesfield Cub Scouts.

Another exciting day for our Cub Pack was the taking part in the Annual Don District Swimming Gala at Chapeltown baths on 26th February.

The Ecclesfield Cubs were successful in coming first and winning every trophy in the competition, four in all. Also each Cub received a certificate for taking part.



Well Done Cubs.

Ecclesfield Scout Group Centenary Open Day Invitation.

We would like to extend an invitation to everyone to visit our Ecclesfield Scouts HQ the Scout Hut (off Yew Lane) on Saturday 12th May between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm when we will be holding an Open Day to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Ecclesfield.



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Diary for the Month of April

Sunday 1st		Palm Sunday
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	2.00 pm	Children's Crafts in Church
	6.30 pm	Evening Service – Stainer's Crucifixion
Monday 2 nd	7.30 pm	Holy Week – Communion
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Holy Week – Communion
Wednesday 4 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU in the Gatty Hall - Sylvia Charles / God in my Garden
	7.30 pm	Holy Week – Communion
Thursday 5 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 6 th		Good Friday
	12 noon	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 7 th	6.00 pm	Holy Saturday Vigil of Readings & Prayers
Sunday 8th		Easter Day
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 12 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
Sunday 15th		2nd Sunday of Easter
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	11.30 am	A.G.M.
	6.30 pm	Evening Service with Healing
Wednesday 18 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 19 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	Jubilee Planning Meeting
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group - R. Clayton / A Fishmonger's Lad

Sunday 22nd

3rd Sunday of Easter

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm Evening Service
- 7.30 pm Ignatian Prayer

Monday 23rd

Wednesday 25th

Thursday 26th

- 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Prayer Meeting in Church
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening

Sunday 29th

4th Sunday of Easter

- 10.00 am Easter Praise Service
- 6.30 pm Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 4th March
- 4th March
- 4th March

- Evie Louise Mathews
- William Henry Billard
- Harry Thomas Pape

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

Flower Rota

- 1st April No Flowers Palm Sunday
- 8th April Easter Flowers (Alice Hinchliffe)
- 15th April S. Pratt & K. Bailey
- Extra help needed to clear the Easter Flowers***
- 22nd April W. Blunt & V. Blunt
- 29th April Vacant



The Gardening Year

Pears – which are native to Europe and Western Asia, have been cultivated since the earliest times. By the 16th Century, 232 varieties were available in Italy. Of these 209 were served to the Grand Duke Cosma 111 during a single year. Nowadays, there are probably three times that number of varieties in existence, though not more than a dozen are generally available from nurseries. Where ever apples grow, pear will grow too, but they need slightly different conditions and treatment. Since their blossoms open earlier than those of apples, when there are fewer flying insects to pollinate them, they should if possible be planted in a less-exposed position. Pears also need watering more frequently during dry spells, since they are less able than apples to withstand drought. Few pears are self-fertile, therefore when buying trees it is necessary to purchase two different varieties which will flower at the same time. If you only require one tree, conference is a self-fertile tree. Plant pears in a sunny sheltered position preferably in deep loamy soil that will retain moisture in summer.

If the soil is free draining and sandy dig two or three buckets of compost into the planting area. Before planting fork in general fertiliser at the rate of 3oz. per square yard during subsequent years in late January feed with 1oz of sulphate of potash per sq. yd. In March apply 2oz. of sulphate of ammonia per sq. yd. Every third year add 20z. of superphosphate to the sulphate of ammonia dressing. Yields of pears may vary each year according to the weather – that is, the incidence of spring frosts and the amount of rainfall. A tree planted when three years old should fruit within two or three years, depending on weather and position. Plant your trees between November and March, November planting gives the best start. Container grown trees can be planted at any time of the year. Before planting a bush tree drive a stake 2 foot deep into the soil so that the tree can be tied to it by plastic strap ties. Plant to the same depth as it was in the nursery – as indicated by the soil mark on the stem. Ensure that the union between stock and scion is above soil level. Spread the roots out evenly and firm the soil in as it is put back.

During the winter firm any trees that have been lifted by frosts. In the spring water the trees during dry weather to help them to become established. Throughout the trees life water during dry spells giving not less than 2 gallons of water to each plant. Mulch with peat or well rotted compost or manure. Generally, pear fruitlets need less thinning than those of apples. In a good year however, reduce each cluster to one or two fruitlets just at the time they begin to turn downwards. Prune and train pear trees in the same way as apples. Established bush pear trees can however, be cut back harder than apples so do not hesitate to remove overcrowded branches particularly in the centre of the tree during winter pruning. Summer pruning of Cordons, Espaliers and Dwarf Pyramids is earlier than for apples, starting when the summer growth matures – usually in August. Although affected by many of the same pests and diseases as apples, pears tend to be more resistant. Adapt the spraying programme as for apples in the light of local experience.

Colin Williams

A performance of - The Crucifixion

A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer

At St Mary's – Ecclesfield at 6.30 pm on Palm Sunday the 1st April
In preparation for the festival of Easter. Come and bring your friends, sing
the hymns, and join in the worship.

Sir John Stainer, one of the leading church musicians of his generation, wrote the music to the Cantata 'The Crucifixion' in 1887. The words were written by Revd. J Sparrow-Simpson MA. This short cantata has been reprinted many, many times reflecting its ongoing popularity. Round about Palm Sunday and Easter week it will be performed in cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the land and is often broadcast by the BBC.

The work is famed for the choral piece 'God So Loved the World'

<http://youtu.be/X5Akz6J8Rw0>

Bob Fitzharris appointed Archdeacon Emeritus

The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr Steven Croft, has confirmed that Bob Fitzharris, the former Archdeacon of Doncaster who retired from the post in December, has been made Archdeacon Emeritus of the Diocese.

The honorary title is partly due to the fact that Bob, and his wife Lesley, have retired locally and Bob has agreed to continue to have an active ministry in retirement doing "whatever the church asks me to do."

"Bob is free from the day to day responsibilities of Archdeacon of Doncaster but he has agreed to help us in whatever way we can use his gifts and, because he is living locally, being Archdeacon Emeritus means that his wealth of experience across so many areas is certainly not lost," Dr Croft said today.

Bob was born in 1946 and graduated from Sheffield University. He had a previous career as a Dental Surgeon before responding to a call to ordination. He served his whole ministry in the Diocese of Sheffield starting as Curate of Dinnington before becoming Vicar of Bentley from where he was appointed Archdeacon of Doncaster in 2001.

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A Thought for Good Friday

They came this morning before it was light,
Cruel men with axes and chopped me down.
They dragged me unfeeling, uncaring over the stoney ground.
They placed me onto the back of one of their own kind,
My heavy unyielding body against the softness of his flesh.

Bowed with my weight he slowly moved.
They whipped him, and as their whips cut us my sap mingled with his
and fell to the ground. How can kind hurt kind? I do not hurt my brother.

Slowly, stumbling he drags me along the road. He falls.
Three times he falls and is scourged for his weakness.
Slower and yet slower we move as the ground rises.
Once more he falls with my heaviness upon him.
Jeering and mocking these beings drag him from under me, tearing his flesh.

Now he is laid upon me, his arms stretched as are my branches.
A circlet is placed on his head-made from my brother, the thorn.
Sharp agonies pierce into me as we are fastened together.
How much worse for him, this being with flesh as soft as his.

Now I am upright again with my foot fastened into the ground and here
We stand, this man and I.
I hear his murmur like the sighing of the wind through my branches.
I move my leaves to shield him from the heat of the sun.
He makes sounds- "Today you will be in paradise with me but some will be in eternal
darkness". I do not understand these sounds.
I feel his naked body tremble against me, damp with sweat and blood.
His garments are at my foot as my leaves are in winter.
"Forgive them Father, they know not what they do" –
What can these sounds mean?

It is dark, dark all around. It should not be dark yet!
There is a storm. The earth is cracked.
I see some of my brothers below me are torn from the ground.
Those of his kind turn to gaze in fear at we two who are joined

There is a sound – a shout. "Unto you Father I give my spirit, it is finished".
He is dead as I am soon to die. Will I be cursed and be called the tree of shame?
Or will I be blessed, for it was I who held Him in my arms.

© Kathleen Gillott 1980



EASTER EGGS

Easter eggs have been in the shops since just after Christmas but they are not a new idea. The egg has been used as a symbol of rebirth and new life since before Christian times.

The English name for Easter is said to come from Eostre, a northern goddess of spring. The rebirth of growing things in the spring, after the long dark days of winter, was a time of rejoicing in the pagan world and many of their rites and symbols have been carried over into our Christian festival of Easter.

In pagan times they celebrated the return of light and warmth to the world but our Easter celebrates so much more. We celebrate the fact that Jesus died for us and yet is not dead. We celebrate because Jesus overcame death.

And if all those brightly wrapped chocolate eggs in the shops help us to remember that Easter means new life, new life in Jesus, then good – I'll have lots!



BEAUTIFUL EGGS

Chocolate eggs are a new idea; the traditional Easter egg is a decorated hen's egg. Why not make some as special gifts to share the good news of Easter?



You can decorate them in the traditional method of wrapping eggs in onion skins and then boiling them. This gives a mottled, golden look to the egg (or try a couple of slices of beetroot for a different effect).

If you are not going to eat the egg afterwards you can decorate it with paint or felt tip pens. Painted eggs can look very special if, when the paint is dry, you stick on sequins and small beads. Rather than waste a perfectly good egg find out how to 'blow' the egg out of the shell – then you can eat the egg as well as having a perfect empty shell to decorate.

Why did the egg go into the jungle?

Because he wanted to be an eggs-plorer.

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All Welcome



The annual meeting held in January made few changes to our organisation although Sue Stringfellow has now taken over the role of publicity and I have agreed to work with her. Although it seems a long time ago, the Christmas concerts went extremely well, especially pleasing for the Grenoside concert as it was the first time since the choir took over the organisation from the Community Association. We are currently learning some quite up-to-date numbers such as 'Run' as sung by Snow Patrol and Leona Lewis and also 'Make You Feel My Love' by Bob Dylan, which features in the album '19' by Adele - these will be part of our concert repertoire in 2012. The choir continues to thrive with new members joining but we continue to welcome new members, especially men.

Forthcoming Concerts

May 26th Grenoside Methodist Church

June 16th Grenoside Gala

July 14th St Olave's, Filey

Website - www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Andrew Robinson

Archbishop Tito Xavales

A few weeks ago the Diocese was privileged to host Archbishop Tito Xavales for a few days. Archbishop Tito is from Chile and is the Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone of South America.

Archbishop Tito told us about the way in which the Church in his Diocese has grown and has strengthened marriage through developing Marriage Encounter weekends. Tito began this work when he went to be Vicar in a slum parish in the capital of Chile. The weekends began from an experience of renewal in his own marriage. The parish would offer to those who were in stable relationships the opportunity to go away for 48 hours together and really engage with what marriage is meant to be and engage with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Couple after couple were renewed during those weekends and couple after couple came to Christ. This work of Marriage Encounter became the principal way of strengthening marriage and the way of growing the life of the Church.

Prayers and Poems Page

Jewel

Such a shabby box, all rubbed and worn,
quite past its usefulness by many a day.
The catch is broken, lining grimy, torn –

The colour's fading to a dowdy grey.
There is a sadness now to let it go -
time to throw this worthless box away.

But safe inside – a jewel all aglow,
unspoiled by time, its beauty still retains,
still shines as in the days of long ago.

I sometimes think this little box proclaims –
the body's gone – now just the soul remains.

By Megan Smith

Headline

(Luke 24, John20:11-18)

Jesus is alive!

He appeared to Simon,
To Cleopas and his companion,
To Mary and many more,
Eye witnesses
To the headline of history.

And they told their stories
Of promises and hope,
Of disappointment and despair,
The drag-net of death
Transformed by encounters
With the Lord of life.

Jesus is alive!

The headline stands today
As we live the kingdom script
In our generation.
And he transforms *our* stories
And compels the telling.

By Daphne Kitching

Dear Lord:

So far today, I've done alright on my own.
I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper,
I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm
really glad of that!

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out
of bed, and from then on,
I'm probably going to need a lot of help.
Thank you!

Amen.

A Fish's Life

A tank of fishes tropical
In my doctor's waiting room
Starts conversations topical
As folk's appointments loom.

'Those fish – their life's agreeable,'
Muses Bert (he's got a cold),
'They're warm, they're clean, they're
comfortable,
'They've all struck piscine gold!'

'You're right, they want for nothing,'
Says backache sufferer Bill,
'They've fish food for the stuffing,
'And they are never ill!'

Poor Sid, his problem's snoring,
(His wife can't bear the sound),
Says 'Surely it is boring,
'Just swimming round and round?'

Sniffs Bert, 'I fear you're wrong,
'I hope you will forgive,
'You see, their memory's not that long,
'In fact, it's like a sieve!'

Then a goldfish, name of Eric,
Shed a watery little tear,
And said to his friend Derek,
'That's Bert's sixth visit here.'

By Nigel Beeton

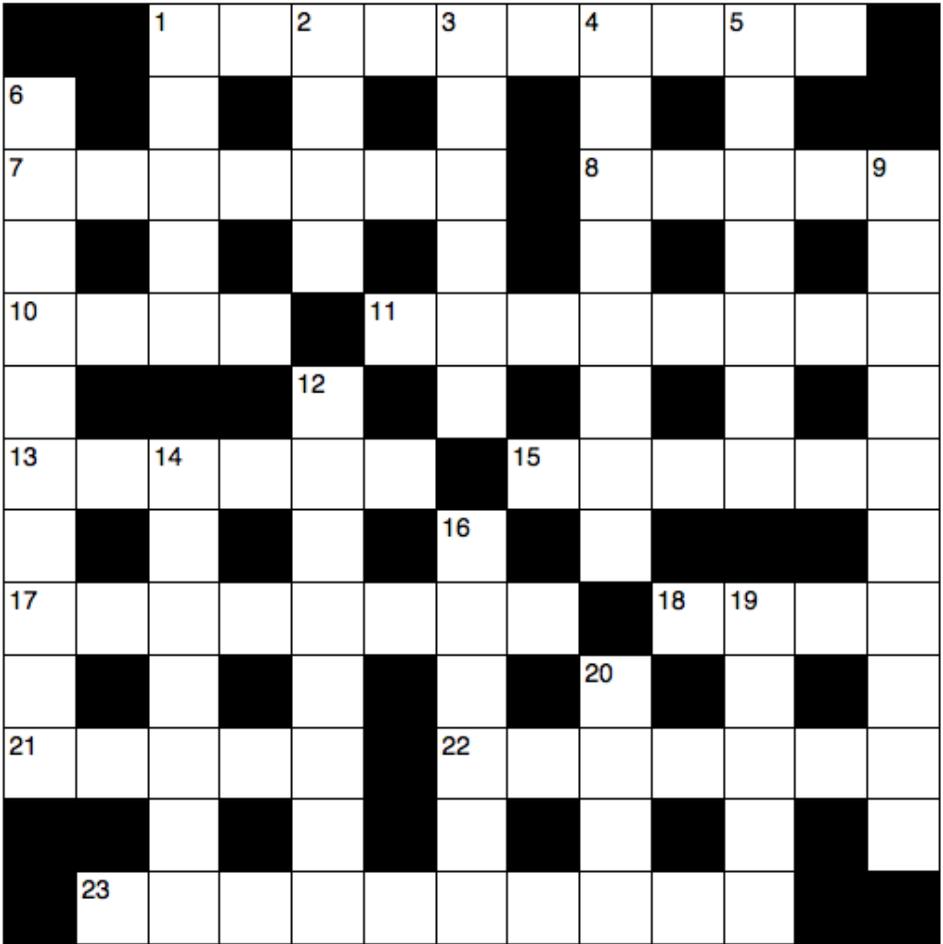
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)



Answers

ACROSS: 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up. 10, Calif. 11, Governor. 13, See you. 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake. 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample. 23, Perishable.

DOWN: 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom. 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings. 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres. 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee. 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.

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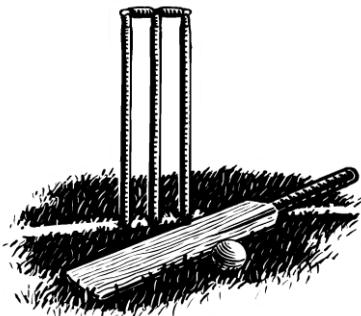
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Elizabeth Gelsthorpe - NDSF FSF

135 High Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S35 9UA

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



Cricket starts again in April so it is time to look forward from what was yet another successful season in 2011. The highs were undoubtedly the winning of the All Yorkshire knockout competition, The Black Sheep Yorkshire Champions Trophy, and retaining The Whitworth Cup. So we are now working, not only to defend these two trophies, but also to regain the South Yorkshire Premier League title which we won in 2010 but were runners-

up to Elsecar last year. Jaco Castle, our South African player, will be back with us yet again for 2012 and with a stable 1st XI, we are hoping for another winning season.

The club will again be running three senior teams as well as all the junior teams and anyone wishing to play cricket at that level who is not already a club member is invited to contact the Team Manager, Steve Fletcher. At the time of writing, we are still looking for a first team scorer so please contact either Steve Fletcher or me if you think you may be interested.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

Forthcoming matches at Cinder Hill Lane

21 st April	1 st XI	v	Treeton
22 nd April (morning)	U 15	v	Eckington
26 th April (evening)	U13	v	Frecheville
28 th April	2 nd XI	v	Whiston
29 th April (morning)	U15	v	Shiregreen
30 th April (evening)	U11	v	Bradfield
1 st May (evening)	U17	v	Shiregreen
5 th May	1 st XI	v	Whiston
6 th May	1 st XI	v	Aston Hall

Andrew Robinson

Contact Numbers for Local Groups



Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 4.45 pm to 6.00 pm
Leader - Mrs B Travis
Tel: 0114 2453504

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm
Leader - Mrs M. Myers
Tel: 0114 2452452

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall
Tel: 0114 2468866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 2461289

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 2464714
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

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 2402398

Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre
Monday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Wednesday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Secretary –Carol Travis

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm
Leader - Mrs J Steel
0114 2460218
Thursday 6.00 -7.15 pm
Rachael Otter 0114 2461752

Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mr E. Buttimer
Tel: 0114 2586935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 2209212

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Practices - 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Seniors - Wednesdays
Up to 13 yrs. - Thursdays
14 yrs. to 17 yrs. - Fridays
Manager - Steve Fletcher
Secretary – Joe Webster
Tel: 0114 2452518
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

If you would like your local group advertised please contact:

Mrs P Blackburn  0114 2468453



Useful Contacts



Vicarage Revd. Daniel Hartley 2570002

Churchwardens: Mr Alwyne Hill 2469154
 Mr Tommy Proctor 2460373
 Mrs Ann Hackett 2467159
 Mrs Audrey Sidebottom 2460929

Readers: Mrs Pat Clarke 2577191
 Mrs Norma Priest 2461729
 Mrs Stephanie Dale 2467348

Pastoral Workers: Mrs Stephanie Hartshorne 2845381
 Mrs Pat Wood 2465086

Church Office:

Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm 2450106

Church Choir Practice in Church
Friday 7:30 pm - Contact: Don Knott 2468430

Music Group Practice in Church
Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker 2460746

Mother's Union in Gatty Hall
1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm
Contact: Maureen Lambert 2469690

Ecclesfield ladies Group in Gatty Hall
Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Linda Waldron 2463091
 or Joan Fisher 2469914

Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry
Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst 2862766

Gatty Hall Bookings,
Contact: Mrs Margaret Roberts 2463993

Baptisms: Contact – Revd. Daniel Hartley 2570002

Weddings: Contact - Revd. Daniel Hartley 2570002

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Office e-mail *office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com*

Magazine e-mail *magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com*

Who's coming to 'Tiffin'

Rev Sr. Thankamma Varkey the founder of St Mary's School, Bangalore was the General Secretary of the Women's Fellowship for South India until her retirement in 2004, and resided at 'Vishranthi' which is the headquarters. This organisation is affiliated to the Mother's Union.



Pam and I visited the school earlier this month, on the desk was a photograph of her and the above gentleman, on enquiring she said 'O yes it's the Archbishop of Canterbury, he and his family came to tea at Vishranthi' as if it was an everyday occurrence and not a great honour.

Our trip this year was very successful, and we hope the big changes are to be made at the school with a new young lady joining the organisation to help with the management.

The children are all progressing very well and are all healthy.

Heather Johnson