

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for April 2013

Price 60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

First Words...

- **PRAYER** – 2013 is presenting many challenges for the future of the Church in the Diocese of Sheffield. There are many practical discussions being had about finance and the deployment of clergy. What needs to underpin all of this is attentiveness to prayer. Many things are possible with God which we thought were impossible. Prayer “tunes us in” to these possibilities.
- **GROWTH** – Church growth is a vital part of our mission, but it doesn’t happen “out there”. It begins when we invite others, friends and neighbours, to join with us in worship. Bring a friend along on a Sunday or to a midweek event. God is working through all of us as he seeks to grow his Church.

Daniel Hartley



Peace Within

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that
has been given to you

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the
freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

Amen

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Front Cover – St Marys a ¾ Elevation– Spring 2009

Back Cover –Easter Cross - 2010

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The Vicar's Letter

With the advent of digital television it's quite common to see certain films repeated at regular intervals. One such film, or set of films, is the Godfather Trilogy; three films about an Italian American Mafia Family, the Corleone's. The films chart the rise of a criminal empire under the immigrant Sicilian, Vito Corleone, and the passing of power to his son Michael Corleone.

At their heart these films are about the desire of Michael Corleone to move away from his criminal past to a legitimate and law abiding future. He fails. It is fair to say that the last film, Part Three, is the weakest of the trilogy, but it contains a moving final scene. Michael Corleone's inability to turn his back on his past results in the death of his daughter. In the final scene he is shown as an old man, alone and dying, in Sicily; the model of isolation and abandonment.

Michael fails to turn his back on his past because he is wedded to a set of values that define honour in terms of vengeance, strength and control. These values lead him to order the death of his own brother, an event that haunts him throughout his life. Even whilst striving to turn his back on his past, Michael Corleone cannot break free of the values that have defined him.

Although on face value these films are about a specific set of characters and circumstances, they speak of a general human failing: the inability to let go of our past and to define our future according to a new set of values. Repentance, saying sorry for our sins, is not a set of isolated confessions, but a desire to turn from the past and embrace a new future.

Letting go of the past and our past values is difficult and painful, but can only be done as we accept the values offered to us in Jesus Christ. Christ ushers in a new way of living. He calls us to forgive and to realise love in openness to him and to a fellow human beings.

Few of us are defined by the sort of values embodied in the Godfather, but many of us are defined by values that keep us from God. The common root of these is the sin of pride; the belief that we, with our own cares and concerns, matter more than God.

The great joy of the Christian Faith though is that God has seen our shortcomings, our pride, our values that keep us from him, and he has given us the grounds to move beyond. He has given us his Son so that we, unlike the fictional Michael Corleone, can let go of our past and embrace the freedom of our future.

Daniel Hartley

The Bishop's Letter - April 2013

Eastertide Approaches

Dear Friends

In the Easter season we look forward as a Diocese to our Ten Days of Prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. This is the time of year when we pause and centre our lives again on God's grace. It's a time when we draw aside and spend time in intercession for our communities. It's a time when we seek God's provision for the ministry of the church and of the diocese. It's a time to prayer for the making of new disciples and for people to come to faith. It's a time to listen to God more deeply for the year ahead and to seek a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.



Different churches will mark the Ten Days of Prayer in many different ways but here is a picture which may help and challenge you. Many years ago, the parish where I was Vicar kept the first week of January every year as a week of prayer. We would gather each evening as a church to intercede and to wait on God.

One evening someone who was present shared a picture from God which resonated deeply with me then and all down the years since. It was a picture of two trees side by side. One was large and green and full of fruit. The other was small and dry, withered and dying.

The "picture" revealed what was going on below the ground. The roots of the fruitful tree were deep and wide, pressing down as far beneath the ground as the branches extended above it. The roots of the dying tree were shallow and penetrated only a few inches below the surface.

Through the picture, God offered us then (and offers us now) a challenge about what kind of church we want to be in our generation. The difference will lie in what goes on below the surface: not the activity of our parishes but our quiet and often hidden life of prayer. That needs to be steady and deep and growing to sustain renewal and growth and fruit.

The picture of two trees (of course) resonated so powerfully because it comes not from the person's imagination alone but from the Scriptures. Psalm 1 contains the beautiful image of the righteous person being like the tree standing beside streams of living water. Jeremiah uses the same image (17.5-8). Jesus in John's gospel speaks powerfully of each branch needing to remain rooted in Jesus himself as the vine in order to bear fruit.

Take the Ten Days of Prayer seriously between Ascension and Pentecost this year and let's seek God's grace together for our communities and for God's church.

+Steven Sheffield



SIGN OF THE FISH

In the early days of Christianity it could be very dangerous to admit that you were one of Jesus' followers. You could be arrested, imprisoned and killed, simply for your beliefs. Christians had to meet in secret - but how could you tell if a stranger was a Christian or not? Who could you trust? Christians used secret signs to recognise one another. And one of these was the sign of the fish which could easily be scratched on a wall or drawn in the dust of the road. If the other person wasn't a Christian they'd just think you were doodling.

The fish was used as sign because, in Greek, the first letters of the words 'Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour' spell 'ichthus', the Greek word for fish.



How can you show other people today that you are a Christian? If you have the joy of knowing Jesus in your heart then it should show on your face!

SECRET WRITING

The fish was a secret sign. If you would like to send someone a secret message, you can do it with 'invisible ink'.

You need a lemon or an onion. Squeeze the juice of either into a small bowl. Using the juice as ink, with a clean nib in a proper pen, write your message on a piece of paper. Leave it to dry and as it dries the message will disappear.

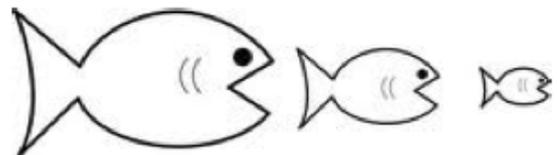


To make it reappear, hold the paper over a lamp or radiator. This is a very easy way of sending secret messages ... but you have to be sure that the person you are writing to knows the secret of how to make the message reappear!



Where does seaweed look for a job?

In the 'Kelp-wanted' ads!



What game do fish like playing the most?

Name that tuna.





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April 1899, From Ecclesfield Parish Magazine

Ecclesfield published a church magazine from the middle 1800s which cost one penny (0.4p) per month in 1899. In those days, the church also served Grenoside, Chapeltown, High Green and Shiregreen

Easter Day 1899

As regards the weather, Easter Day began well. The sun shone brightly during the 8.00 communion but as the day wore on, clouds stole over the sky and there was a little rain. The Church was beautifully decorated with arum lilies, and daffodils and narcissus, the Font being made especially attractive. The services were bright and well-attended, though the Church was not full, as we had hoped.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

During April, there were 18 baptisms, 7 weddings and 13 funerals – the eldest being 93 but with four only 2 years or younger - the youngest 15 hours.

A ‘fashionable wedding’ took place – of Miss Jessie Smith, daughter of Churchwarden A. Harrison Smith of Cliffe House, to Mr Percival Barber on Thursday 27th April. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* reported “St. Mary’s Church, Ecclesfield, was yesterday the centre of attraction for inhabitants over a wide range of the district. The bells pealed merrily and the quaint old village was quite gay and festive. The afternoon was regarded as a holiday, the inhabitants flocking to the old church, which was practically filled with guests, and lining the long red-carpeted walk in the churchyard. After the ceremony, the newly married couple drove away amidst the cheering congratulations of the bystanders, and with the bells ringing a merry wedding peal, the guests, who numbered nearly 200, followed for the reception at Cliffe House where the wedding presents were on view in the billiard room”.

Football

Ecclesfield has a good football record. It is now with pleasure that we congratulate Mr H. Johnson, of Church Lane, on being a member of the victorious Sheffield United team against Derby County, in the English Cup Final. We feel proud of so athletic a parishioner. (The match was at the Crystal Palace, attendance 73,833 and the score 4-1. Wednesday had won the cup in 1896 but had to wait until 1907 for the next win, by which time United had already won twice)

Church paths

We are glad to notice that this very necessary work has been taken in hand. The wide crevices between the uneven slabs have for some time been most uncomfortable and even, in a small way, dangerous. We shall be glad when the

work is finished and the pavement level and dry throughout the whole Churchyard. (Some things do not change)

Concert to raise funds for books

A concert was given in the Infant School with a view to raising a few pounds with which to buy new books for our Parish Library. The concert was a decided success, though we were unfortunate in clashing with another village function fixed for the same night. After paying expenses we handed over the very useful sum of £7, 12s, 9d (£7.64) to the library. Our thanks are due to the Parish Council for their kindness in lending us 100 chairs. (The Parish Library was held in the Reading Room, on the corner of Priory Rd. and Church St. at a monthly subscription of 1 penny (0.4p)).



Church Ladies with Laptops & Computers.

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at Church services:

- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: ‘Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus’
- Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands
- Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Mill Charlene Mason sang ‘I will not pass this way again’ giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell”. Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

And this one just about sums them all up:

- The Associate Minister unveiled the church’s new campaign slogan last Sunday: ‘I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.’

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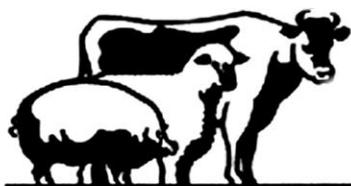
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Will You Remember Them - April

Give Thanks for answered Prayers in Morocco

Freedom of information law allows us to share this article with you, Open Doors March magazine covered the story. We are delighted to report that a court in Morocco has decided in favour of the Village Of Hope orphanage in Ain Leuh.

The Christian orphanage had been ordered to close in March 2010 during a government crackdown on foreign Christian workers. At least 40 were deported, including 16 staff workers at the orphanage and 10 foster parents, leaving the children behind with Moroccan authority workers.

The reason given was that the parents had been 'proselytising' (preaching or evangelising), with no explanation of who, when or where this was alleged to have occurred. The court's oral decision was made in Oct. 2012, but the written verdict was not given for another three months. On 25th January, Open Doors received an email from a board member at the village confirming the news.

The board member wrote.... "The decision of the court returns to us the management of the village and permits that the children be put under our care. The decision returns the village to the state it was before the deportations of 2010. This is great news but the story is not over. The government has a month to file an appeal and, as I understand it, even if it does not file an appeal, we will have to negotiate with the government for the right to resume care of the children. While the story continues, the court decision is enormously encouraging.

Please continue to pray..... I am so eager to see the children and once again be able to ensure they live in a loving, safe, protected environment. Thank you for your prayers "

Please Pray.

- Praise the Lord for this encouraging outcome!
- Pray that the court's decision will be upheld, and pray that the children can be reunited with their foster parents.

JD

Before Rainbow - Time.

“Have you heard what that silly-old-twit that Shem and Ham have for a father is doing Piers?”

“Oh come on Len, He’s not silly as you make out – I only hope that when I’m his age I can keep six wives as happy as he appears to be doing, and as for age – well my Granddad used to say when he was a young man Ham’s dad was well over a hundred years even then. But go on and tell – I’ve heard many strange things about the man, what’s the latest news on our Ancient Wonder that lives up the hill this time – Go-on make me laugh Len – there’s not a lot to laugh about this year so far with all continuous dry weather - we haven’t had rain for months now”.

“He is busy making wooden cages to keep two elephants in, these that he wants to put into his boat, if you can call that three-storey block of Gopher Wood a boat!”

“Elephants! – its going from bad to worse – the man is insane – he insists there’s to be a flood soon and he wants to save as many animals possible – he isn’t worried about you or me Len – we’re all doomed to be washed away and finish up in the Red Sea.”

“Come on lets go see for ourselves – we’ll pretend we’re just passing – And as we’re his nearest neighbours it’s only good manners to stop and chat – his boys will be pleased to see us – gear up your camel Piers, but don’t let that old man think he can have either of our two beasts. From what I’ve heard he’s wanting two of every kind, male and female, to go into that eyesore he’s building in the middle of sand dunes.”

The two friends mounted their camels, slowly and carefully making their way up the sloping track to the top of the hill and then seeing for themselves the great monstrosity that the old man was building with his three boys and their large families. The sound of hammering and sawing from the interior of the hulk began to make their two mounts twitch ears and widen their eye-balls in fright – the two friends halted and slowly dismounted walking close to the wooden sided hulk, retaining the harnesses and speaking soft words of encouragement to their camels Len and Piers approached and called. “Ahoy Shipmates - is there anyone there? We would like to know if you have any idea when this thing you’re building will be finished – there don’t seem to be any

chance of rain clouds or storms coming our way – perhaps you know something that we don't know?"

A long bearded head set on strong shoulders appeared from the upper deck and looking down on to the two friends and spoke – “Hallo you two – don't see a lot of you these days I'm busy trying to get this finished before the rain, which I've been told is coming very soon – what can I do for you”.

“Just poking our noses – all our neighbours are asking what and why you making this great hulk for – and why if its to be a boat why no masts or rudder – is it just going to be a very big wooden tub?”

Don't you worry what I'm doing but I must tell you as I've told everyone else that has stopped and gawked – I have on good authority that very soon it is going to rain for forty days and nights none stop - and if I were you I would go ahead and build a boat as quick as possible, though I've collared all gopher - wood that's around. Try and save yourself and your families before water cover the earth. But before you go - do me a favour - if you see any unicorns about come and let me know - I need a couple of them to make my collection complete but time is running out.

John Fisher – Chapeltown Writers – on a subject of 'floods'.



Genesis 07 - The Flood - Animals going into Noah's ark

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here.

ACROSS: 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN: 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

Sharing Faith and Inspiration

One of the joys in participating in The Emmaus course last year was the many stories of faith and sources of inspiration that were shared. People I have known for many years shared the most amazing stories and insights into their faith journeys. In a recent meeting of the Mission Team we were discussing this and it was suggested that perhaps if people felt comfortable we could encourage the sharing of such stories in the Parish Magazine.

At last year's Parish Weekend during the 'ice breaking' session, we had to ask each other various questions 'speed-dating' style. Whilst I was talking to Stuart Armeson, the question asked was: If you had a tattoo what would it say? His reply was 'Nothing is difficult to the brave and faithful'. This was a real inspiration to me and so I asked Stuart to write something about why it inspired him. Here is what he has written

Forti et fideli nihil difficile

When I joined the congregation at St Mary's I gained many things. The warmth and fellowship of the congregation, the beauty of this fine old building, the music of the choir, organ and our talented music group, the ministry of Tricia, Daniel, Jeni, Pat, Norma, and Stephanie. I also gained a motto.

As you walk through the main south door, facing you on the north wall opposite, is a collection of pikes and bugles. These belonged to The Ecclesfield Regiment raised in the Napoleonic wars. On the brass plaque beneath is the motto "Nothing is difficult to the brave and faithful".

A motto is (according to Google) a phrase to formally summarise the general motivation of a social group or organisation.

The Bellringers when embarking on trying to raise £70,000 for the augmentation and work on the bells adopted this as their motto. Dawn Johnson kindly had it translated into Latin, made it into a cross stitch picture, and framed it. It is a good motto to have as ringing can have its difficulties.

The motto helps lift me at times when things get tough and there are new challenges to face.

Have you got a challenge to face, may I commend "Forti et fideli nihil difficile" to you.

Stuart

If you have a story or something that inspires you and would like to share it, please have a word with me.

Katharine Lonsborough

Diary for the Month of April 2013

Wednesday 3 rd	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU in the Gatty Hall – Bluebell Wood
Thursday 4 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th		The Second Sunday Of Easter
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 8 th	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wednesday 10 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 11 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening
Sunday 14th		The Third Sunday Of Easter
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Monday 15 th	7.30 pm	Outreach Team Meeting
Wednesday 17 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 18 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Janina Derrick / Sidelined by History
Saturday 20 th	7.00 pm	Concert by Emley Band
Sunday 21st		The Fourth Sunday Of Easter
	10.00 am	Parish Communion & AGM
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Ignation Prayer in Church
Wednesday 24 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 25 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening
Sunday 28th		The Fifth Sunday Of Easter
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Easter Praise

From the Registers

Baptisms

3rd March Kasey Tyler Drajlina
3rd March Oliver Henry Ernest Ashford

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

Weddings

9th March Michael Palmer & Sarah Hackett

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

Funerals

17th February Bertha Bramhall 93
26th March Patrick Hackett 59

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

7th April S. Pratt & K. Bailey W
Extra help please to clear the Easter Flowers
14th April C. Wright & S. Johns
21st April W. Brunt & V. Brunt
28th April K. Lonsborough & P. Clarke



The Gardening Year April 2013

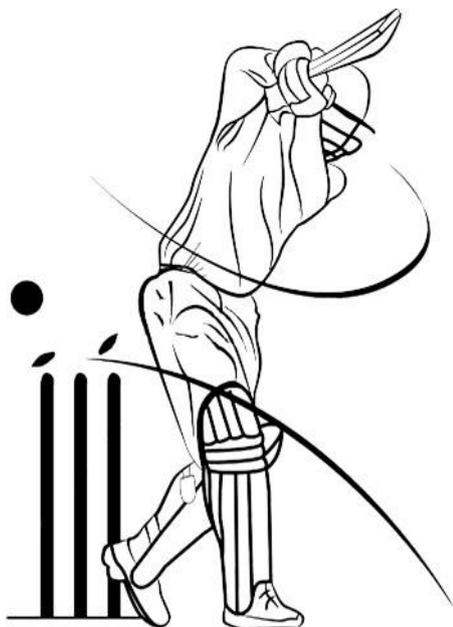
Flowers – sweet pea blooms show well in the garden if plants are grown in groups, six or eight of a single colour in each group supported on hazel branches, wire netting or pea nets, For cut flowers sweet peas are best grown in rows for ease of cutting pea or beans net are the simplest supports. Exhibition flowers can only be grown where plants are carefully trained. Single 7ft canes one for each stem is the simplest method tie each stem separately removing tendrils which may cling to the leaves or stems and distort them. Pinch out unwanted side growths and pinch out the tops when 6ft high. Lift and replant snowdrops where too crowded, divide kniphofias if necessary. Preparation should be made for summer bedding and bulbs should be lifted. Lift and divide the large white border daisies – *chrysanthemum maximum*.

Fruit – hoe all the ground around fruit trees to keep weeds down. Feed each tree with 4oz of fish blood and bone for 4oz of growmore fertilizer. Pears growing in grass land are often affected by pear midge, this pest eats out the centre of tiny new fruits and makes them appear swelled or ‘bottled’. Spray with insecticide and fungicide all fruits coming into bloom, to check apple blossom weevil, codlin moth and march moth. Never spray when the blossoms are open you may kill bees spray in late evening.

Vegetables – a part of the vegetable plot is nearly always the ideal place for the herb garden, make this now. Herbs need full sunshine to develop a good flavour, herbs grown from seed should be sown this month, these include-borage, sorrel, pot marjoram, thyme, angelica, sage, chervil, summer savoury. Mulch early peas and strawberries. Prepare ground for the reception of brussel sprouts, cauliflowers, lettuce ect grown in frames. The ground should also be ready for runner beans. There is still a danger of frosts and provision should be made for this, clothes, fleece, straw and newspaper all make useful protection material. Young plants should also receive protection from birds, pea and bean nets or black cotton is best. Under glass, bring out plants from the greenhouse or frames on sunny days and put back in the evening. Keep the windows open whenever the days are warm to prevent seedlings and cuttings from becoming drawn. Early strawberries are obtained by potting up plants now and forcing them, keep pots in the greenhouse or cold frame until planting out next month. Seedlings under glass must receive careful attention, keep moist, do not let them dry out of they will damp off. Give ventilation daily to all seedlings and cuttings. As the planting out season approaches give more air to produce sturdy plants, watch for greenfly and spray with insecticide as often as necessary.

Colin Williams.

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



It is time for cricket again although, following an extremely soggy summer, the winter has given no sign that 2013 is necessarily going to be better.

As I write, with inches of snow lying on the ground, it seems strange that the new season is only 3 weeks away. However, the club has worked over the close season to introduce improved drainage to the ground so this will hopefully help.

Last year the first XI retained the Black Sheep All Yorkshire Champions trophy and also won the Yorkshire Cricket Council Champions trophy. The 3rd XI, The Colts, won the South Yorkshire Alliance Leage Division 3. So there are high hopes for another successful season.

Do come and support your local club at Cinder Hill Lane. You are all very welcome to use the facilities in the pavilion on match days.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

Website: www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Senior matches at Cinder Hill Lane

20 th April	2 nd XI	v	Millhouses
27 th April	1 st XI	v	Wickersley
4 th May	2 nd XI	v	Wickersley
6 th May	Colts	v	Treeton
11 th May	1 st XI	v	Upper Haugh

ACR

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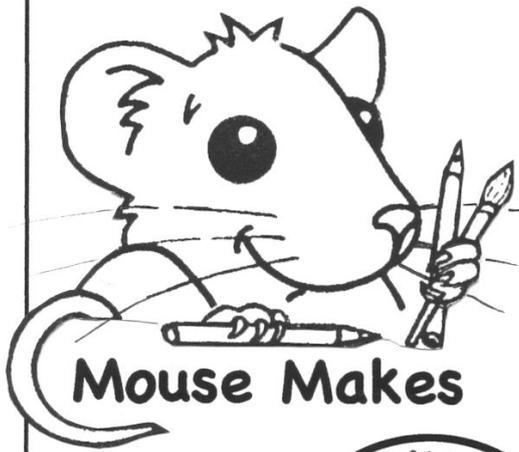


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What is your most valuable treasure?

The bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.

The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

Keep my words,
treasure up my commands
Prov 7:1

Do not store up treasures on earth
Matt 6:19

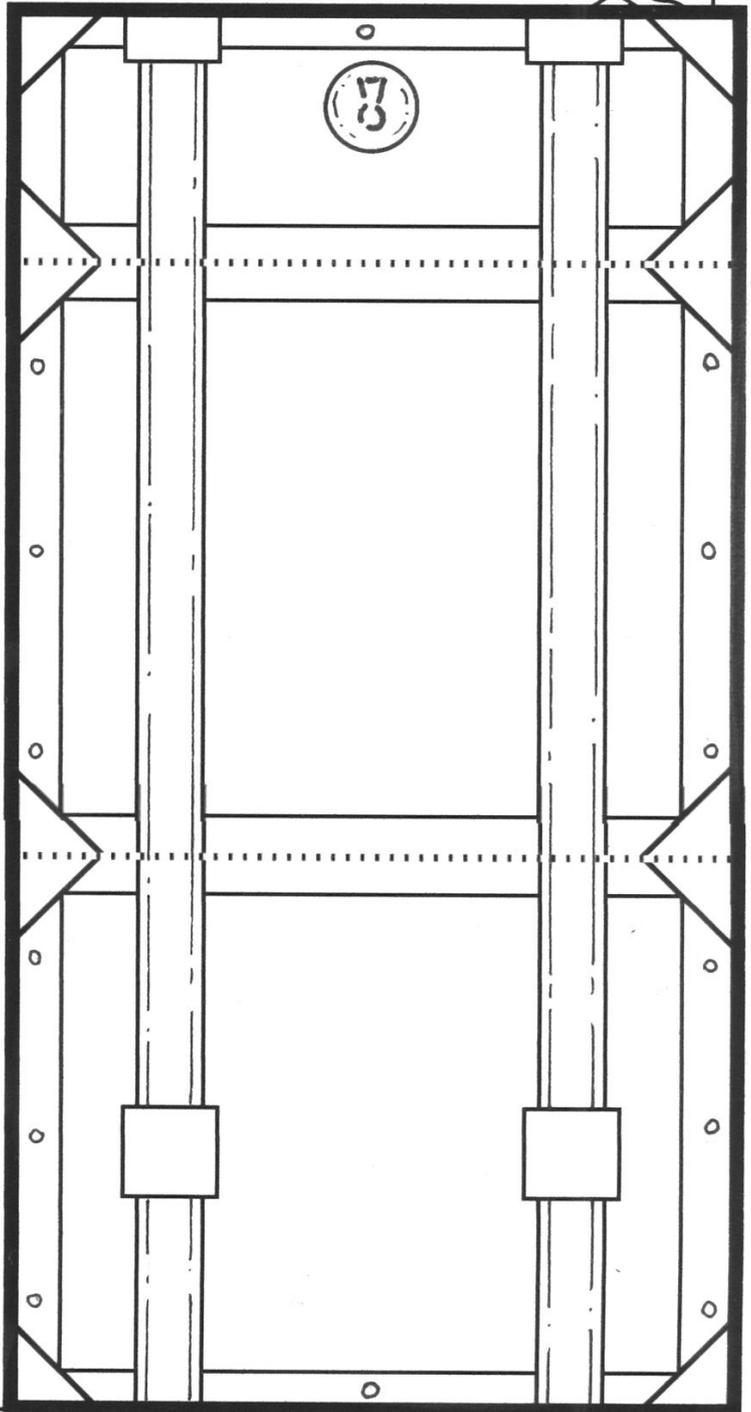
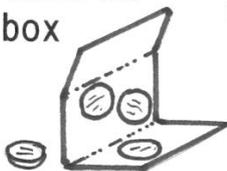
Your **HEART** will be where your riches are
Matt 6:21

In **Christ** are hidden all the **treasures** of wisdom and understanding
Col 2:3

Be **RICH** in good deeds
1 Tim 6:18

Be **generous** givers
1 Tim 6:18

Cut out these coins. Cut out the treasure box and fold along the dotted lines. Glue the coins inside the box



Mother's Union - Wednesday 6th March

The speaker was Sarah Jane Phylliskirk, of W.O.R.K. (Worthwhile Occupational Recreational Krafts) and was accompanied by Andrea, one of the users. It is a registered Charity and is situated at the rear of Bents Green School, Ringinglow Road. The purpose of this organisation is to provide a friendly, encouraging, rewarding environment to create opportunities for people with learning disabilities to develop life skills which helps to build confidence and self-esteem.

It was set up 18 years ago by a Sheffield businessman, whose son Tim had learning difficulties, had finished streamline education, and he wanted him to be able to socialise but there was nowhere for him to go. He thought about setting up a garden centre for young adults, with learning difficulties, to work so they could say "I'm off to work this morning". So the organisation was born; small garden centre, garden ornaments etc. to display and sell. Sarah Jane's Mother Glynis, came on board two years later. It was then decided to open a small café and find out what talents the users of the facility had. They learnt to serve in the café which built up their confidence.

Over the years things have progressed with the learning of new skills. There are now 63 using the service and a waiting list. The café has recently been refurbished with the help of John Lewis Partnership and now the users not only serve in the café but also make lunches. Not only has the café been up-dated but also the workroom and offices. There are 17 members of staff and many volunteers. The workroom is where the students make jewellery, stained glasswork, and recently have been taught how to make rag-rugs and cushions. One of the lads who was very quiet and all he would do was sweep up, discovered how to make rag-rugs and now he is chatting to everyone and is an expert rug maker. All the items are sold in the café. The original greenhouse has been changed into a workshop, as it became too costly to buy in the plants. Some of the users helped with the rebuilding of the workshop and were allowed to choose the colours for the walls – this was a split decision, some of it is blue and white (Wednesday supporters) and the rest is red and white (United supporters). The workshop is used for the making of wooden and metal items. They have difficulty in getting funding because they are classed as being in an affluent area. This is where John Lewis Partnership came to the rescue as contact was made with them, and when they saw the work being carried out at W.O.R.K. they were so impressed that they arranged, last May, for 300 volunteers to do the equivalent of a "60 minute makeover" There are also other Companies in the area who are helping them under the heading "business

in the community”. Now there is also a good car parking area although the lighting still needs doing and tarmacadam.

Students can attend from 16 years old up until they want to leave, no matter how old. One person, Richard, has just retired at 65.

Local School’s for children with disabilities are sending 7 students every Wednesday who sign up to attend for a whole year. More Schools are asking for their pupils to attend.

They need more people to visit in order to raise money for future improvements. They have now purchased two large barrels, which are filled with plants, and placed on either side of Ecclesall Road advertising “The Hidden Gem”. If you would like to visit they are open weekdays 10am to 3pm.

Now it was Andrea’s turn – she loves singing and likes visiting Groups. She sang 5 songs and we were all asked to join in.

A really heart-warming afternoon.

PP

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The Boss

The bishop was complaining in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect from the diocesan committees and staff.

Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss", and then taped it to his office door.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Prayers and Poems Page

A Prayer for Easter-tide

Dear Father, Life can be difficult. Sometimes it feels as though the sun has stopped shining, just as it did on that first Good Friday. Sometimes it can feel as though we are stuck in the darkness and it seems impossible that the light will ever shine again. And yet the reality is that Friday did move on, into the most glorious Sunday. The Son did rise - and his light shines on, transforming the darkest of times, holding out hope and peace and life to all who will turn and look into his face.
He is alive. He will help us. Thank you Father, for Jesus. **Amen.**

Daphne Kitching

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Christ is Risen

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever

St. Hippolytus of Rome (AD 190-236)

The Josephs

(Luke 23:50-56)

It began and it ended
With a Joseph,
The life of Jesus.

One laid him in a manger,
The other laid him in a tomb.

One named him Jesus
And brought him up.
The other asked for Jesus,
And brought him down from the cross.

They were both men
Who stood firm
When life said, Run.

They both turned disappointment and despair
Into stepping stones of trust,
And walked on, as witnesses
That to God,
Darkness is a light switch.

Daphne Kitching

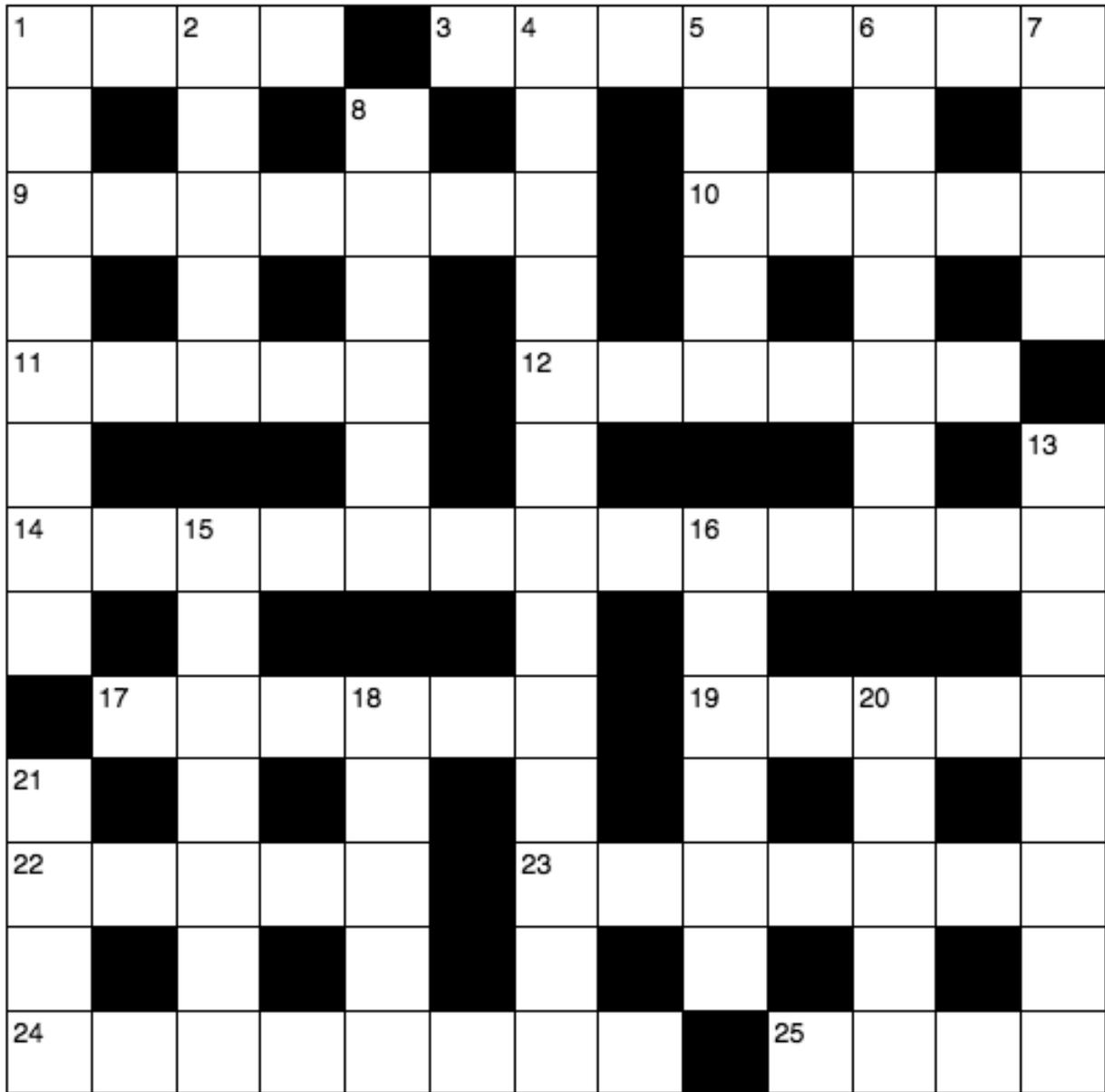
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1** 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) **3** A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9** In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10** Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11** Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12** Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14** 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17** Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19** What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22** The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23** For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24** Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25** Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

Clues Down

- 1** 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2** Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4** 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5** An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6** Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7** 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8** One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13** Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15** 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16** Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18** 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20** Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21** 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 14.

Special day for atheists

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter; and Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur; Muslims have their holidays. In fact, every religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognized holidays. It's an unfair discrimination."

"Nonsense," his friend replied, "People have observed a special day in your honour for years." "I don't know what you're talking about," the atheist said, "When is this special day?" "April first."

April 23rd - St George's Day - Our patron saint who isn't English

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!'. The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

David Winter

New Honorary Assistant Bishop announced

Bishop Steven has confirmed that the Bishop of Beverley, The Right Reverend Glyn Webster, is to be an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese.

Bishop Webster was ordained as bishop by the Archbishop of York last month and works with traditionalist parishes across the north of England.

Until recently Bishop Glyn's ministry was closely associated with York Minster where he was a Canon for many years.

Bishop Webster previously worked as a State Registered Nurse at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, before training for the ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham.

He has since been Vicar of St Luke's York, and part-time Senior Chaplain of York District Hospital and became the full-time Chaplain there. He served as Rural Dean of the Deanery of York for ten years. In 2000 he was appointed as Canon Treasurer of York Minster and has been Canon Chancellor there since 2003.

Bishop Steven said: "Bishop Glyn is well known to many of us already but we are delighted he will be sharing in ministry with us in the Diocese and look forward to welcoming him to various services and events each year."



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Contact Dawn Johnson 2463986 or Alwyne Hill 2469154

Contact Numbers for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 4.45 pm to 6.00 pm
Leader - Mrs B Travis
Tel: 0114 245 3504

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson
Tel: 0114 257 8609

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 –Carol Travis

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park,
off Mill Lane - Church Street
Winter opening times
Wednesdays 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm
Saturdays 10.00 pm to 12.00 pm.
Tel: 0795 706 6404
email: rose@rosetanner.plus.com

Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm
2nd Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 245 2780

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm
Leader - Mrs J Steel
0114 246 0218
Thursday 6.00 -7.15 pm
Rachael Otter 0114 246 1752

Ecclesfield Scouts

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Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mr E. Buttimer
Tel: 0114 258 6935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 220 9212

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Mrs P Blackburn  0114 246 8453

