

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



*Church Magazine for December 2013
& January 2014*

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Price 60p

First Words...

- **Christmas**

The Services for Christmas can be found in this magazine. You're warmly invited to attend any, or all, of these. We have Services for children and families, a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Day Communion Services at both 8.30 am and 10.00 am.

- **Advent**

Don't forget to properly prepare for the coming of Jesus. Join us during Advent

- **Food Banks At Christmas**

At St Mary's Church we are now collecting items for some of the Food Banks in the local area. When you're shopping for Christmas please try and put a couple of extra tins in your shopping trolley so that you can do your bit.

Daniel Hartley



Prayer for the Month

The Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Front Cover – West Elevation November 2013

Back Cover – Christingle 2013

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The Vicars' Letter - The message of hope

There are lots of words that can sum up Christmas: families, parties, presents, carols, mince pies. Christians enjoy all of these things as much as the next person. Yet, as far as we are concerned, there is a core dimension that can get overlooked. In the midst of our festivities we can often overlook the simple truth that lies at the heart of Christmas, and that simple truth can be summed up in one word: "hope".

Christmas, like a good summer holiday, can be a welcome distraction from the mundane nature of life. It can be a time when we forget the lack of meaning that may blight our lives. We can let our hair down, drink and be merry, and leave the realities of life for the New Year. Yet Christmas, unlike a summer holiday, presents us with a message that has an enduring significance for 365 days of the year. At Christmas we are reminded that, despite all the evidence to the contrary (war, famine, recessions, and depressions) there is a hope that lies at the heart of our humanity. To put it bluntly, God has seen something within our humanity that is worth redeeming. He has seen a glimmer of hope, a potential, that has led him to send his Son into the world. God descending to earth so that we, even in the midst of our weakness, may be invited to ascend to heaven.

Every age has produced its pessimists and our age is no exception. Our country/ culture/ world/ species have been going to the dogs for as long as people have been able to reflect on the past and worry about the future. And yet we're still here, negotiating the pitfalls and complexities of life. Why? Well, it's that word again: "hope". Despite that fact that we all like a good moan, it's not the moaning that sustains and drives our humanity; it's the hope. We live on because we are committed to the hope that things can be better.

The celebration of Christmas does not end when we take down our decorations. It continues for as long as we are committed to hope and to letting God unlock that hope within our humanity. Hope is not the same as naïve optimism or burying our heads in the sand. Instead it is about finding that which can better our lives as we dig deep within our humanity. Christmas festivities come and go, but the message lives on into eternity. The words of the Bible sum this up and, as always, deserve to be the last words:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3.16

Daniel Hartley

A Journey in the Dark.

We were rather nervous when our morning flight was changed and we found that we would now be arriving in Chania, Crete, in the dark for our fortnight's holiday. We all tried to bolster each other's confidence. 'The instructions we have been given really seem very good.' 'We were here a couple of years ago in an area quite close to where we are going, so what can be so difficult?' 'There are four of us, so surely four pairs of eyes will help!' But I have to say we were worried.

The man from the car hire firm was duly waiting for us when we came through arrivals at the airport and as the paper work was being done, we shared our concerns with him. To our delight he told us that he was returning home to the village down the hill from our villa and would happily let us follow him to that point. He looked at our instructions but couldn't fathom out exactly where our villa was.

It was then that we looked at the car. It was not the one we had arranged, but, this was Crete, and we couldn't expect things to be just so. However, we soon realised there was a huge problem. Try as we might there was no way we could pack two large suitcases from the hold and four carry-on small cases into the car besides the four of us.

And this was when we received such a boost. 'In that case,' said our man with the car, 'I'll put a couple of the cases in my car and take you right to the door of your villa!' I think our silent prayers of thanksgiving must have echoed around the airport! He duly rang his wife who had a friend living near our villa for clarity about just where the villa was, fetched his own car, and we loaded up and set off in convoy. It couldn't have been easier. He was a thoughtful and careful leader and we reached our destination without a hitch. Right at the end of our journey we had to turn off the main road and drive 150 yards along an unlit, unmade, rough track, which wasn't clear from the instructions and certainly did not appear to us to be the right way. I think, had we been on our own, we would have been stuck for a while, driving up and down the main road in the dark, not knowing how to proceed.

All of this makes me reflect on each one of our journeys with God. He doesn't leave us 'stuck' anywhere in our spiritual life, but sends us guides, angels in disguise to give us the help we need to carry on our journey with him. Our destination is closeness with him, a deep relationship with him, a sense of his leading and his guidance every minute of every day, both in this life and on into the next. And he provides the way.

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." (*Minnie Louise Haskins*)

Editor: See page 31

JF

Mothers' Union - November

Our place in God's world - When did you become aware of God?

As usual Jeni Fryer was challenging us. When did we first become aware of God in our own small world? When were we aware of something greater than ourselves? We chattered with our neighbour about early memories of the world around us and the feelings we remembered. We moved on then to memories and experiences of holidays abroad, thinking about the scenery and the people and our awareness of God's world. We have seen many changes and been made aware of other people whose lives we have no experience of but who are part of God's wonderful world and who have a reason and a purpose for being there.

With our neighbour we spoke of the times when God had shown us how he was involved in our lives, appreciating that God is the God of the whole world as we experience the people and places.

If God is our focus we take him with us everywhere.

We ended with a short benediction thanking God for bringing us to where we are now.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, the vault of heaven proclaims his handiwork." (Psalm 19)

NP

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The Bishop's Letter, December 2013 – Bishop Steven

A year ago, more or less, I had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks in Rome as the Anglican representative at a great gathering of Roman Catholic cardinals and bishops from around the world. Every person there had the opportunity to speak for just five minutes giving his perspective on the Church in his own country. Along with everyone else, I had to listen to over 300 carefully prepared five minute speeches, called interventions, twelve an hour for five hours a day. There were no questions or discussion and they were strictly timed. The microphones were turned off after your allotted time.



The most striking and impressive of the speeches was by Archbishop Luis Tagle of Manila in the Philippines. Archbishop Tagle was made a new Cardinal during the Synod, much to his surprise. We were in the same small group during the Synod and shared a number of conversations. As you would imagine, he has been much in my thoughts and prayers over the last few weeks because of Typhoon Haiyan.

Archbishop Tagle began his intervention by saying that the Church must listen again to the voice of the young. He said that the Church needed to learn and to practice three words in particular over the coming years. The first of those words is humility, the second is respect for the views of others in a world of difference, the third is silence before the pain and suffering of the world: the silence of compassion, the silence of love. Humility, respect and silence.

His call to relearn those three words have echoed in my mind over the last year and have come back to me with a new force following the devastation in the Philippines in November as I have prayed for the Cardinal Tagle and for his people and for all those who are struggling to help the survivors. I hope and pray that everyone who reads these words will do what they can to help in this moment of great tragedy for the Philippines and to support the work of rebuilding which will continue for many years.

But as we give what support we can, let's hear this Advent the words of the Cardinal Archbishop of Manila. At Christmas we will remember that God comes to us as a human child with humility, in respect and in silence. The Church all over the world needs to learn again every year these three words: humility, respect and silence.

How might we learn those qualities in our own church today?

+Steven

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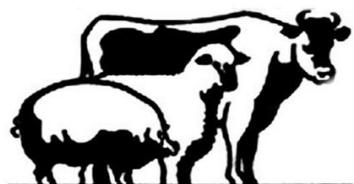
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Will You Remember Them – December 2013

China - Population 1.35 Billion [85 Million, Christians]

Chinese Government asks church for help with social care.

The Chinese government has welcomed the role of the church in providing social care in the country.

China's leaders have been holding a meeting in Beijing to discuss the economic and political agenda for the next decade, in which it seems the Church will play a vital role. "The government welcomes the support of the church," said government official Wang Xinhua at a recent Shanghai conference on the role of Christianity in China, sponsored by the Bible Society.

"We lack the resources to meet all the needs that we face, so we need religious organisations in order to do so." Mr Wang said that the "beliefs" and "love" of the church were an "advantage" to society. Leading academic Prof Pang told the conference: "Many social problems have their root causes in social injustice, the abuse of power, inequality, corruption and bribery." In an outspoken move, the professor said that, as the church took up the challenge of providing social care across China, particularly among the elderly and poor, it must not lose its prophetic role.

"The church needs to be a prophet and a servant." He said. Though it is the world's second biggest economy, China is facing a social care crisis, particularly in caring for an increasingly elderly population. By 2040 nearly 20% of China's rural population will be aged over 65.

Please Pray

- Praise God for this breakthrough in government and church relations and that God would give church leaders wisdom as they work with the Chinese government to develop a strategy that would last and bring significant benefits to the Chinese people.
- For greater openings for the church to be involved in Chinese society in the future and that this initial collaboration will lead to other invitations and wider opportunities.
- For families in China that they would know the love and wholeness of Christ through the witness and contact with Christians because of this development. AMEN

JD

Christmas Tree Festival - Supporting Pathways

As you will have seen from the advertisement in recent magazines, we are holding the above event on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th the Church will be open from 10am-6pm and on Sunday 15th December 1pm-5pm.

The proceeds from this event are to be shared equally between St Mary's Church and "Pathways" which is a registered Charity and is situate on Green Lane, Ecclesfield. The Project Manager is Mrs Pat Booth and she and her staff care for young people with various learning difficulties. These students often arrive with "issues", some come from dysfunctional families, others have Child Protection concerns, and all have low self-esteem and little or no aspirations. The team work with students who have been diagnosed with ADHD, Autism, Attachment Disorder etc.

All of these issues impact on how they learn as you can well imagine this is a very low priority for these students, who may already be disengaging from the education system.

Students access the service through different organisation e.g. Schools, Junior and Secondary, Social Services, Foster Care Associations etc. The first point of contact is a telephone call to Mrs Booth and a meeting is arranged to meet with relevant people (Teachers, Student Officers, Learning Mentors etc.) The next step is to complete a form which gives details of each child, that includes medical history, academic levels and any Child Protection issues – this will include a short paragraph as to what would be the likely outcome for the student. A "package" is then put together as to meet the student's individual needs and requirements. When all this procedure has been followed the student is then invited to meet with the team, have a look around, and then set a start date.

The Student is allocated a Key Worker who will "get to know" the student and monitors how the student "presents" themselves when they arrive – are they dirty, hungry, quiet, troubled etc. How the student has responded to the subjects taught in the day (this gives the team a chance to either make work easier or harder). If a student feels "safe" they will start to open up and talk.

Regular review meetings take place with Schools and Mrs Booth (once a fortnight) as to the student's progress, not just academically but socially. It is at these meetings where a decision is made as to whether the student is ready to return into full time education.

Continued over page

The Schools provide the necessary work or a timetable of what is being taught in School. By working in this way and by having the work it enables the student to re-engage into school without falling behind. Pathways staff also differentiates work so ALL students can learn at their own ability. Results are measured by improved behaviour, a happier more settled individual who is accessing the educational system in a proper manner.

Currently Pathways is running a 10 week self-esteem building programme which has been written and put together by Mrs Booth and a Senior Learning Mentor/Lead Child Protection Office at School. They also teach Maths, English, Science and I.T. These subjects are their priority but there is a vast collection of “projects” for the students to keep them engaged.

The students are never left un-supervised. The staff spend the full day with them, this includes having breakfast and lunch together. The staff have found these times to be the most valuable times of the day as this is when the student feels “safe” and able to talk and share issues with them.

Mrs Booth’s other role is to engage and keep an open dialogue with the parents/carers and they are invited on a regular basis to visit, look at their child’s work, have a chat, air their views and get support.

I am sure after reading the above you will agree that Mrs Booth and her team are doing an excellent job with quite challenging students. When I visited I was very impressed by the way a very small building has been adapted and how cosy and safe it feels. I met a young man who told me that he was dyslexic and had other issues but he was a “success story” thanks to Mrs Booth and her team.

If you would like to visit Pathways, Pat and her team would make you very welcome, just telephone her on 0114 2457855.

Pam Prior

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

ACROSS:	1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Mcas. 10, Roes.	11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Caveil. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar.	22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.	6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlesbags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Licenee. 16, Plate.	19, Exist. 20, Save.
DOWN:	1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Luceyne.				

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St NICHOLAS

Feast Day 6 December

St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. Lots of stories are told of his kindness and generosity. He is the patron saint of Russia, children, scholars, merchants and sailors.

One legend tells of his secret gifts to three daughters from a poor family. It is said that he threw 3 purses of gold down the chimney where they landed in the girls' stockings which they had hung up to dry in front of the fire. This is supposed to be the origin of hanging up Christmas stockings.



Over time the name of St Nicholas changed to Sinterklass and thus to Santa Claus in the Christmas celebrations.

STOCKING DECORATIONS

You will need some Christmas-coloured felt, a needle and thread, fabric glue, ribbon and sequins or buttons for decoration.

Fold the felt in half and cut out two simple stocking shapes. Sew these together with a simple running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Sew a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking.

Now you can decorate the stocking with scraps of felt, lace, buttons or sequins. Glue them on carefully and leave to dry. You could even try writing a name in glue and sprinkling on glitter to cover it.

This would be nice to give as a

present with a
little present or
sweet inside or
to hang on the
Christmas tree
as a



decoration. You can make them any size you like.



How many presents can Santa fit into an empty stocking?

Only one, after that it is not empty any more.

Why is a foot a good Christmas present?

Because it's a stocking filler.

Don Knott – Church Organist

I was recently asked what prompted me to be interested in the organ. Looking back to when I was 4 or 5 years old my parents took me to the Harvest Festival service at Brunswick Chapel (A large imposing building situated at the bottom of the Moor). During this service we sang ‘We Plough the Fields and Scatter’. The second verse came alive with the sounds which the beautiful organ and the very skilful organist produced. I have never forgotten this.

Brunswick Chapel was a casualty of the war and like many other churches and chapels moved in with another church.

Our usual chapel was Mount View which I attended with my parents on Sunday mornings and evenings, and Sunday school in the afternoons until the Blitz badly damaged the chapel and ruined the pipe organ; services were moved to the local Scout Hut.

I had had some piano lessons and (because there was no one else), and because the lady who played for the Sunday school was sometimes ill I was called upon to play for the Sunday school services. This was good experience for me, possibly painful for others.

At Netheredge Grammar School, City Organist C.H.C. Biltcliffe was the Music Master and I had some piano lessons from him as a private pupil. He was a very good teacher both at school and in private lessons, and we were fortunate to have him as Music Master. He could be irascible, but he was a brilliant musician using his vast knowledge to enthuse schoolboys to go to orchestral and choral concerts and musical recitals.

When I started work I packed up lessons but kept some time for practicing. The church was repaired and the Blitz damage eradicated but we were managing with an American organ pro tem. The church decided to buy a brand new pipe organ and the firm chosen fitted the church with a house organ from a stately home whilst the new organ was being built.

I played this organ for the afternoon Youth Group service and had a few organ lessons from the organist at Sharrow St. John’s. These lessons stood me in good stead and when St. Luke’s Methodist church advertised for an organist I applied for and got the job. I started playing there when I was 19 and stayed until I was 46. I thoroughly enjoyed being there as did Madge (now my wife).

Whilst at St Luke's I had some organ lessons from Mr Biltcliffe, I enjoyed every lesson but because I was on Call 24/7 did not get the practise I needed consistently. When St Cecilia's advertised for an organist I applied for the job (I had always wanted to play at an Anglican Church) and was successful.

The change from Methodism to Anglo-Catholicism was very strange but Madge and I enjoyed it when (once) the shock had subsided. On our first Sunday the Vicar announced in the notices that beer was reduced by 4d a pint in the Club (which was adjacent to the church) – Methodists at that time were still signing The Pledge! We enjoyed our stay at St Cecilia's very much, services were well structured and the music and the liturgy blended well.

We had always been attracted to St Mary's (our son Martin had been in the choir there) and when they advertised for an organist I applied. We both like David James and we were very pleased when I was offered the job.

I have thoroughly enjoyed (and continue to enjoy) my stay at St Mary's, the friendliness and the enthusiastic choir.

I was asked why I play the organ. I believe it to be the best single instrument for leading congregational and choral singing of traditional hymns. It has a tremendous dynamic range from a whisper to a thunderous roar and a wide palette of tonal colours – some of which imitate orchestral instruments.

For me it is the king of instruments though it was often called the 'poor man's' orchestra, especially in the hands of Reginald Foort, Reginald Dixon, Sandy Macpherson, et al.

Don Knott

Editor's Note:

Reginald Foort, Reginald Dixon and Sandy Macpherson were renowned Cinema and Theatre Organists – Often heard (but not seen) on the BBC's Radio and TV services.

Reginald Dixon (of Blackpool Tower fame) was born in Sheffield on 16 October 1904. He auditioned at the Stocksbridge Palace, near Sheffield, the piece he played was Debussy's "Arabesque" and he was employed there as pianist and musical director, for the sum of £3 per week. He stayed 18-months before moving on to the Chesterfield Picture House and later to the Heeley Palace. In March 1930, Dixon was invited to audition for the position of organist at Blackpool's Tower Ballroom - The rest as they say is history.

Diary for the Month of December 2013

Sunday 1st

The First Sunday of Advent	
10.00 am	Parish Communion
12 noon	Baptism Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
1.00 pm	MU/Christmas Party in The Gatty Hall
9.30 am	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Prayer Meeting in Church
7.30 pm	Ladies' Group/ The Revd. Jeni Fryer
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

Tuesday 3rd
Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Friday 6th

Sunday 8th

The Second Sunday of Advent	
8.30 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion
2.00 pm	Children's Christmas Crafts
6.30 pm	Holy Communion
7.00 pm	Ecclesfield School Carol Service
2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
7.00 pm	Yorkshire Association of Bell Ringers/ Bell Ringing and Social Evening
10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
9.30 am	Holy Communion
7.30 pm	Ladies' Group/ Carols & Mince Pies
	Christmas Tree Festival
7.30 pm	Belling Ringing Practice/Silent Ringing

Monday 9th
Tuesday 10th

Friday 13th

Sunday 15th

The Third Sunday of Advent	
10.00 am	Parish Communion
4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
9.30 am	Holy Communion
7.30 pm	Sheffield Oratorio Christmas Carol Concert
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing
6.00 pm	Service of the Longest Night

Tuesday 17th
Wednesday 18th
Thursday 19th

Friday 20th
Saturday 21st

Sunday 22nd

The Fourth Sunday of Advent	
8.30 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion
4.00 pm	Christingle Service

Tuesday 24 th	4.00 pm	Crib Service
	6.30 pm	Carol Service
Wednesday 25th		Christmas Day
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Friday 27 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice/Silent Ringing
Sunday 29th		The First Sunday of Christmas
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 31 st	11.30 pm	Bells Ringing in the New Year

Diary for the Month of January 2014

Thursday 2 nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice/ Silent Ringing
Sunday 5th		The Second Sunday of Christmas
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 6 th	7.30 pm	Finance Meeting
Tuesday 7 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 8 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU in the Gatty Hall/P. Booth - Pathways
Thursday 9 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting in Church
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
Friday 10 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing
Sunday 12th		The Baptism of Christ
	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Monday 13 th	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Tuesday 14 th	7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting in Church
	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 15 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	12 noon	MU Dinner at The Garrison
Thursday 16 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 17 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

Sunday 19thTuesday 21stWednesday 22ndThursday 23rdFriday 24th**Sunday 26th**Monday 27thTuesday 28thWednesday 29thThursday 30thFriday 31st**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

10.00 am	Parish Communion
4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
7.30 pm	Fabric Team Meeting
9.30 am	Holy Communion
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion
6.30 pm	Evening Service
7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
9.30 am	Holy Communion
7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

From the Registers**Baptisms**

3rd November
3rd November
3rd November

Ava Annie Spooner
Harrison Mark Dyson
Mylo James Fowler

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

Weddings

9th November Daniel Spooner and Victoria Rawcliffe

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

Funerals

23 rd September	Maitland Wilson	69
14 th October	David Joseph Sadler	61
20th November	Stephen Wroe	45

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

December 23rd / 24th Christmas Flowers

What is love?

The lovely smile on a babies face.
The twinkle in an old man's eye.
The longing in a young man's sigh.
Giving to a charity.
Hands stretched across an empty sea of faces when you fall.
The photos hanging on the wall of friends you made on holiday.
The meal you shared with people you like.
The picnic when you hiked with a group you hadn't met before.
The phone call when you're feeling down.
The unexpected trip to town.
When someone says "I thought about you today".
That's love.

The flowers picked by tiny hands and given with a kiss.
The shopping fetched by friends because you're ill.
The scones and cake you bake for someone else to have their fill.
The seeds you put out for the hungry birds.
Ignoring all the gossip that you heard.
Is that love?

The ones who give their life for you and me.
Who sacrifice themselves to save a mate.
Those people who give rescue from the sea.
They all ask for nothing save that you live.
That's love, that's much much more than love.

A Pearce

Carol Singing Around The Christmas Tree

Sunday 15th December 6 pm
Refreshments available in the Church
Wrap up warm and bring a torch

The Gardening Year – December 2013 - January 2014.



Flowers – Press back young plants or carnations and wallflowers into the soil after each severe frost. Plant masses of Michaelmas daisies where large borders are to be filled. Examine stored tubers and bulbs. Remove any that appear to be diseased and destroy them. Herbaceous borders can be renovated when the ground is neither too wet nor frosty. The Shrubbery – deciduous climbers of all kinds can be planted except when frost is severe. Thorough preparation of the soil is necessary as the plants will be planted in their permanent position, and the subsoil cannot afterwards receive treatment. Remove unwanted shrubs and prepare the site, by deep digging and manuring to receive the newer varieties in spring.

The Rose Garden – Rock plants lifted out of their soil pockets by frosts should be pressed back. Place a layer of stone chippings on the surface round the plants. Keep a look out for slugs if the weather is mild, they will make for the tender plants. Protect alpine plants by horizontal sheets of glass raised a few inches above the plants.

Fruit – Prune soft fruits, cut away old thin shoots from blackcurrants, thin young shoots from red and white currants and from gooseberries. Clean out and thin raspberry canes and mulch the surface soil with manure of compost. Thin out branches of apples and any that over cross, if not already done.

Vegetables – finish digging for frost and weather to work the soil before spring planting. Shallots can be planted this month on well drained soils though many gardeners prefer to wait until February or early March. Now is the time to tidy up the garden, compost all vegetable waste, leaves etc., clean greenhouses and cold frames also seed trays and pots with Jeyes fluid.

Finally I would like to wish every one of our readers and all at St Mary's a Merry Christmas and a Happy Gardening New Year. *Colin Williams*

Ecclesfield Ladies Group

On Thursday 7th November the Ladies Group were entertained by Mike Spick who's subject was Sheffield A – Z.

This was most unusual and not what you would expect. For example E was for Elephant, we saw a photo of Thos W Ward's elephant which could pull the weight of three horses and this happened in the late 19th and early 20th century, another photo showed two camels roped in front of the same elephant amazing. F was for Flood (the Sheffield one) and he pointed out that at the beginning of the reservoir the people lived in houses up the hill, so the loss of life was not so great, unlike Malin Bridge where the houses were much nearer the water. The final letter was Z for Zeppelin which came to Sheffield in the First World War, the mind boggles at the fact that these Men of War were so unstable that they had to locate their target first and then turn the great beast round and bomb on the return journey on the outskirts of the City. The visual aids for this item were very funny as model of the Zeppelin moved across a map of Sheffield and back again. It was really enjoyable evening.

PB



A prayer by Mother Teresa

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred:
Forgive them...anyway

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:
Be kind ...anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies:
Succeed ...anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you:
Be honest and frank...anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight:
Build....anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous:
Be happy...anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow:
Do good...anyway

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough:
Give the world the best you've got ...anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God:
It was never between you and them...anyway.



Ian Smith ATT Anne Smith BA (Hons)

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At St. Mary's - Ecclesfield

Sunday 8th December 2013

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Cost - £2.00 per child

Registration slips available on the day.



www.stmarysecclesfield.com



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield

Christmas Tree Festival



St. Mary's Church - Ecclesfield

Friday 13th December 10am to 6pm

Saturday 14th December 10am to 6pm

Sunday 15th December 1pm to 5pm

Refreshments Available and Various
Stalls in Church

Admission £1 - Includes Raffle Ticket



The Festival will close with the singing of Carols
around the Community Christmas Tree in the
Churchyard at 6 pm on Sunday 15th December
Everyone Welcome



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield

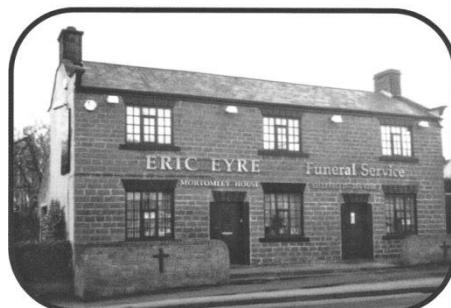
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Christingle - A generous present from the Moravians

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20th December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: "**Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become**".

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

Editor see: - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_Church for more information

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Wheel Chair Access

Prayers and Poems Page

Your Gift of Life – at Christmas

Creaking on the staircase -
Noise outside my door -
A rustle in the chimney –
It's 'Santa-time' once more.
St. Nicholas is on his way
With all his Christ-life gifts
To fire every child-light with
The loving Christ-mass kiss.

In some he'll place the gift of gold -
In others frankincense -
While others will be given myrrh -
All signs of God's presence.

Continues on the right

For in each earthly crib or bed
In squalor, comfort, splendour -
The Christ child has been placed again
To call the world to wonder.

So come you kings, come one, come all,
Come shepherds to the cradle stall
And hear the angels sing a-new
The heavenly song they sing for you.

Your God is in your gift of life -
The life He gives with love –
So take the gift and use it,
Use it wisely, don't abuse it,
Let the Christ-life fire your spirit
That God in you may LIVE.

By Sam Doubtfire

Morning Star, O cheering sight!

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning star, thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light:
Jesus be
Constantly,
More than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, thou morning star,
Cheer the nations near and far;
Thee we own
Lord alone,
Man's great Saviour, God's dear Son.

Morning star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with the light divine.

Traditional Moravian Carol

Prayer of Thanks at Christmas

Loving Father of Christmas, In this year
when we have welcomed the birth of a
baby, born to be King of this country for a
generation, we thank you for the
everlasting gift of your precious son,
Jesus, King of all Kings, whose reign will
last for ever and ever.

Thank you that he became one of us; that
he lived and died and rose again so that we
might be offered the gift of eternal life.
Please open our eyes and ears and hearts
this Christmas, by the power of your Holy
Spirit. May we see, hear and experience
the peace and joy, comfort and life, which
is your Christmas present to us, wrapped
up in the presence of Jesus. Emmanuel,
God actually with us, today!

Thank you, thank you Lord. **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1** Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7** David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)
- 8** They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10** Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11** Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13** Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15** First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
- 17** Stormy (8)
- 18** A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone ‘unclean’ (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21** Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22** How John Newton described God’s grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23** Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Clues Down

- 1** ‘— and see that the Lord is good’ (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2** ‘The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion’ (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3** One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4** He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
- 5** City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6** ‘Offer your bodies as living — , holy and pleasing to God’ (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9** Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12** One who accepts government by God (8)

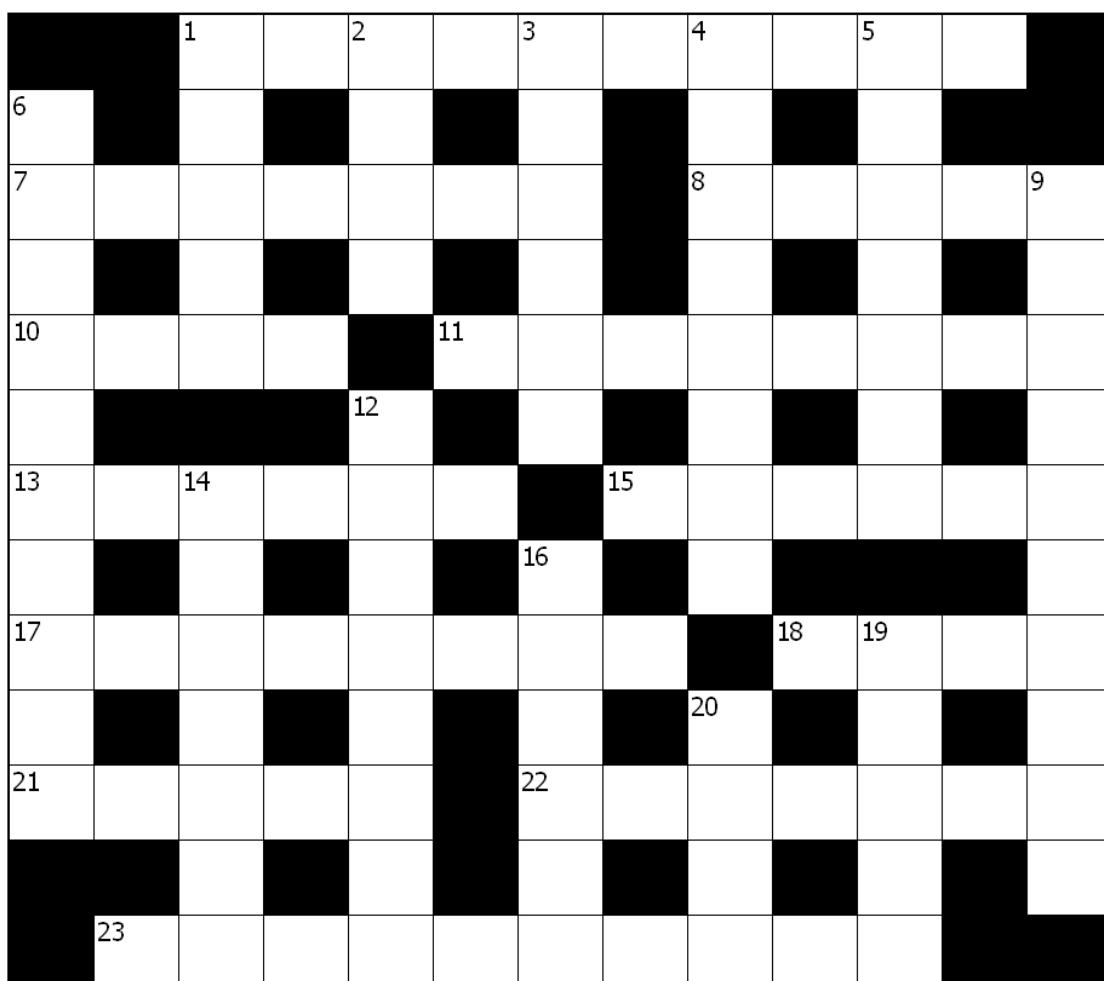
14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1)

(7)

16 He asked Jesus, ‘What is truth?’ (John 18:38) (6)

19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 ‘You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 12

God Knows - "The Gate of the Year"

A poem by Minnie Louise Haskins

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Saint of the Month - Daniel the Stylite 409 to 493

Saint's Day - December 11

Do you know any odd Christians? People with hearts of gold, who would never harm anyone... but who are also just plain ODD.... Well, Daniel the Stylite should be their patron saint. Perhaps he is the proof that God can bless and use any one of us – no matter how batty some of our ideas may be.

Daniel was born in Mesopotamia in 409 into a devout Christian family. He seems to have been an intense sort of child – when he was only 12 he became a monk. Some years later Daniel visited Antioch, and saw the famed Simeon Stylites, the wild, hairy monk who lived his life perched high on top of a pillar, dropping his fleas and lice on the people below.

Most of us would have walked on by, but in that moment Daniel's vocation was born. He climbed a ladder in order to talk to Simeon, and soon after that set out on pilgrimage. At Constantinople he came across a disused temple, reputedly inhabited by devils.

Most of us would have walked on by, but Daniel moved straight in. He bolted the door, and stayed inside for the next nine years. Local people fed him through a small window. Braving hideous noises and fighting violent apparitions occupied a lot of Daniel's time – perhaps it was like having a fifth century play-station?

Simeon Stylites died in 459, and left Daniel his lice-infested cloak – which inspired him further. With the help of some local admirers, Daniel came out of his temple and set himself up on a pillar just outside the city. Kirstie Allsopp of TV's Location, Location, Location would have approved of the view over the Bosphorus, but not the amenities. When Daniel nearly froze to death one night, the Emperor was so worried that he built Daniel a new, more spacious home: TWO pillars close together, with a little shelter on top.

Daniel spent the next 33 years on top of his double pillars. People came to him with their problems, and he comforted and advised them. He preached every afternoon, on the love of God. He urged people to show hospitality to each other. He prayed for people. People loved him for it, and God blessed him, even though he did live on top of a pillar. When he eventually died up there, his hair was four cubits long, and he had sat so long with his knees up to his chest that his bones cracked when they straightened the body.

So next time you meet a good-hearted but eccentric Christian, take comfort – they could be far worse!

Messy Nativity Sheep Trail

During the month of December you may see several knitted sheep, each with a name around its neck, in some of the village shops.

This is part of a Nativity Sheep Trail where children search to find the names of 8 sheep and then come to the Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 22nd December at 4pm, where they will find the 9th sheep.

Each child taking part in the event will be given a small booklet which sets out the Christmas Story as well as telling them in which village shops the sheep can be found.

If your child or grandchild would like to join in this Nativity Sheep Trail please pick up a booklet, booklets will be available from the 8th to 21st December from St. Mary's Church, the Library and from some of the village shops taking part in the Trail.



Coffee Shop at St Mary's Church



*Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Luscious Cakes, Tea / Coffee
All Welcome*

Greaves Road Lunch Club

Meets every Monday during school term time at the Community Rooms, Unity Gardens, off Greaves Road, Ecclesfield. From 11.45 am til 1.15pm approx.

*Cost £3, includes 2 course hot meal and drink.
Open to anyone aged 60 or above.*

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: TBA

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
Summer opening times
Wednesdays 10.00 am to 12.00 pm
Saturdays 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
Tel: 0795 706 6404
email: rose@rosetanner.plus.com

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

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

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Leader - Mr E. Buttiner
Tel: 0114 258 6935
Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 220 9212

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 246 4714
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Useful Contacts



<u>Vicar</u>	Revd. Daniel Hartley	257 0002
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mr David Banham Mrs Irene Proctor Mr Tommy Proctor Mr Andrew Robinson	246 0194 246 0373 246 0373 246 3646
<u>Readers:</u>	Mrs Pat Clarke Mrs Norma Priest Mrs Stephanie Dale	257 7191 246 1729 245 2392
<u>Pastoral Workers:</u>	Mrs Stephanie Hartshorne Mrs Pat Wood	284 5381 246 5086
<u>Church Office:</u>	Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm	245 0106
Church Choir Practice in Church		
Friday 7:30 pm - Contact: Don Knott		246 8430
Music Group Practice in Church		
Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall		
1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm Contact: Maureen Lambert		246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group in Gatty Hall		
Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Linda Waldron or Joan Fisher		246 3091 246 9914
Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry		
Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst		286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings,		
Contact: Mrs Margaret Roberts		246 3993
Baptisms: Contact – Revd. Daniel Hartley		257 0002
Weddings: Contact - Revd. Daniel Hartley		257 0002
Vicar's e-mail:	<i>vicar.ecclesfield@gmail.com</i>	
Office e-mail	<i>office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com</i>	
Magazine e-mail	<i>magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com</i>	

Christingle 2013

The Children's Society

December is the most wonderful time for the Children's Society, as up and down the country Churches, schools, and children's organisations are holding their own Christingle Service.

Christingle was established by the Moravian Church in 1747 as a symbol of Christ's light and love. The Children's Society adopted it in 1968 and it has since become a popular family and community event.



The Christingle itself is made up of a lighted candle (symbolising Jesus, the Light of the World) mounted on an orange (representing the world). A red ribbon or tape around the middle of the orange (indicating the blood of Christ) with four cocktail sticks bearing dried fruit or sweets to signify the four seasons and the fruits of the earth. These are given out to the children during the service.

Here at St. Mary's the Christingle Service is on Sunday 22nd December at 4.p.m. This year our focus for Christingle is on helping children growing up in poverty. The candles to save pennies in will have gone out to the children's organisations in the village, if you know of any other child who would like one please ask at church.

In 2012 we helped over 50,000 of England's most overlooked and rejected children, helping them to face the future with confidence.

This year St. Mary's and friends have raised an amazing £1,400 pounds through Collecting Boxes and Donations. We wish to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their generous giving.

With Love Pat Blackburn and Betty Mitchell