

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for February 2013

Price 60p

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First Words...

- **Lent** – As talked about in the Vicar’s Letter, the season of Lent begins on 13th February. On Wednesday evenings in Lent, at 7.30 p.m., we will be holding a series of Lent Reflections, exploring the meaning and work of the Church. The themes of the evenings are as follows:

20 th February	The Church as Institution
27 th February	The Church as Communion
6 th March	The Church as Sacrament
13 th March	The Church as Herald
20 th March	The Church as Servant
- **Lent: What Will You Do?** – Each Lent we’re invited to reflect on our Faith. Traditionally Christians gave things up to help with this and such a practice is still commended today. However others prefer to take something up for Lent: a book, the reading of the Bible, a more disciplined approach to prayer. What will you do this Lent?
- **Prayer** – Every time we open a newspaper or watch the news we are confronted with difficult times, home and abroad. We often wonder what we can do. We might give of our time, or give money, but what we should always start and end with is our prayers. The Bible does not provide a clear framework as to how prayers work, but we are promised that they do. In other words no prayer goes to waste. Take time each day to pray for those in need – and don’t forget to say a prayer for yourself as well.



Daniel Hartley

A Prayer for Lent

Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth you did not consider heavenly equality,
though that was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant,
and in humility and obedience allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh for the sake of our salvation.
And so it is that we acknowledge you as Lord of all,
to the glory of God the Father,
Son and Spirit, Three.
Amen

Front Cover – View of the Stocks from St Mary’s – Jean Fowler
Back Cover – A couple of ‘new’ boilers - ACR

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The Vicars' Letter

Darkness and light

This time of year we experience rather a lot more darkness than we do light. For many people it's dark when they leave to go to work and dark when they get home. Whole days seem to pass by without any hint of brightness and it can all seem like a bit of a slog! It may only be a few weeks since we celebrated Christmas Day, but our hearts and minds seem to sink in January and February.

The month of February (this year at least) marks a period of transition in the Church's year. On 13th February, at 7.30 p.m., we mark Ash Wednesday with a Service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. This Service begins the season of Lent: a time for reflection on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. It's a time for us to take stock of our lives and of our relationship with God. It marks the transition between the winter season, albeit a season joyfully punctuated by our Christmas celebrations, and the spring time celebration of Easter. It affords us a chance to explore some of the darker consequences of human failing: what could be darker than a Father watching his own Son die upon the cross? During Lent we can take a look at the suffering in our lives and in the wider world and ask where we can find God within this. This discipline of examination is must for all who seek a mature Christian Faith.

During my many years as priest I have been asked the following question more than any other:

“How can God let x, y, or z happen?” - x, y, or z being bad things.

This question is a question that we all ask ourselves at times, but a question that passes for those who have walked the way of the cross during the season of Lent. Our God is not a God of easy answers or a God who simply numbs the pain. He is a God who watches his Son die on the cross. The question of “how” is replaced by “where”. Not “how does God”, but “where is God”. The question is no longer about the past, looking for God in despair, but about the present and the future, looking for God in the process of healing and reconciliation.

Join us during the season of Lent and walk the way of the cross. Let God change who you are and the questions that you ask. Let God lift you out of the darkness of this present age to the light of the age to come.

Daniel Hartley

The Bishops' Letter – February

This month Bishop Peter writes:

“Blessed are the poor in Spirit”

I'm shocked by TV adverts promoting payday loans with extortionate rates of interest. Tens of thousands of people are struggling with debt problems in the current economic climate and looking for help. Payday lenders tend to offer short-term, high interest loans, some as large as 4,000 per cent, that have to be paid back within the month.



Some people have found loans for as little as £150 have increased to £10,000. They've had to take out another loan to pay off the original one. In the UK, one in three payday loans is taken out to pay another payday loan. But increasingly they are being taken out for essentials like food, rent, fuel and travel costs. Inevitably they hit the most poor.

The new Archbishop has called the most costly loans “Usury” saying that curbing them is a “moral issue”. I welcome the Government's initiative to change the law to restrict interest rates for payday loans and I applaud our churches which through “Food Banks” and Credit Unions help the most poor and disadvantaged.

This month Bishop Steven and I will be leading Lent Courses on the Beatitudes and I was drawn to think about “Blessed are the poor in Spirit”.

It's not saying that you have to be poor to be holy. The bible understands poverty as an injustice. The Old Testament helps our understanding. To be poor meant literally to be poor materially. But because the poor could only find refuge in God, it came to have spiritual overtones. It's a poverty that's internal, a looking at oneself and realising a state of spiritual bankruptcy.

To receive the Kingdom of God we must acknowledge our own spiritual poverty but I hope that during Lent we will be mindful and supportive of those in material poverty and debt. This can't be right in the 21st Century. There's a need for interdependence with God and each other. We should aspire to be a nation where the most vulnerable and poor are supported by the strongest without dire consequences.

+Peter



ASH WEDNESDAY 13th February

The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to the date of Easter. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest possible date is 10 March. So this year it is quite early.

It is called Ash Wednesday because of the church service where palm crosses kept from last year are burnt and their ashes mixed with water to make a paste. This paste is used to make the sign of the cross on peoples' foreheads.



For Christians these ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things that they have done which make God sad. It is

also a reminder that we are all mortal.

The mark of the ashes on the forehead shows as a sign of our commitment to Jesus Christ and God. And it reminds us that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection.

FIRE & ASHES



All of these Bible questions have answers to do with fire or ashes... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Who saw a burning bush in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
2. According to Isaiah chapter 58, what should you wear with ashes when you fast?
3. In the second letter of Peter, what cities does he say were turned to ashes?
4. How did an angel cook a cake for Elijah? (I Kings, chapter 19)
5. In what year did the seraph touch Isaiah on the mouth with a live coal? (Isaiah, chapter 6)
6. Where was Peter when he heard the cock crow? (Luke, chapter 22)



Which English King invented the fireplace?

Alfred the Grate.



1. Moses
2. sackcloth
3. Sodom and Gomorrah
4. he baked it on hot stones
5. in the year that King Uzziah died
6. While sitting by a fire in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest.



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Mothers' Union Meeting 9th January

The theme for this year is 'Let us grow'. A good idea for any organisation. The talk focussed on the work done by the Mothers' Union which is global with over 4 million members in over 80 countries. It would be understandable to think that with work going on in so many countries there would be few common areas but an organisation which cares for family life is the same anywhere in the world. Work in learning parenting skills, marriage preparation and peace reconciliation is always needed. There are many MU members who help in prisons giving practical help but who also put on courses to help with rehabilitation.

All this is done with a very small budget of £4 million (Oxfam's advertising budget) and only 3p in the £ is spent on administration, the rest is used in training, start-up grants for small projects and relief work when catastrophes occur.

We heard about the many small projects which really made a difference to people's lives and also about bigger projects like the Literacy and Financial Educational Programme which has changed lives for over ½ million in 3 dioceses in Africa. We have no idea what a difference learning to read can make for those who have never had the chance to go to school.

Mothers' Union can and does make a difference.

Would you like to help us grow this difference?

You can by joining us and also giving to the cause.

Make a Mother's Day is our fund raising event around Mothering Sunday and the booklet produced shows how you can help through donating to this.

Ask any MU member and help us grow our branch this year and into the future.
NP

MU Annual Dinner

17th January saw group of MU members and friends enjoying a post- Christmas lunch at Staindrop Lodge. This was an enjoyable event with good food and good company. It was lovely to welcome Athol Higgins' daughter and husband and the prizes Athol had donated.

I am no longer my own

Many of you will remember Bishop Jack leading a Mission here at St Mary's in 2007. At the end of each evening's worship he used what is known as The Methodist Covenant Prayer. During Advent, over Christmas and through to Epiphany Sunday I read *Companions on the Bethlehem Road* by Rachel Boulding, and was thrilled when she used this prayer in her reflection for New Year's Day. It's hard to think, she said, of a better way to begin the New Year than to say this prayer, and to try spending a few minutes pondering its words, phrase by phrase, thinking what it could mean in your life over the coming months.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will; rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing; put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you;
exalted for you, or brought low for you.**

Let me be full; let me be empty.

Let me have all things; let me have nothing.

**I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are
mine and I am yours. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on
earth, let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen**

Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service, at which they celebrate all that God has done for them, and affirm that they give their lives and choices to God. The focal point of the service is the Covenant Prayer. It embraces the whole of life, in all its parts. Most people find it quite tough to say this prayer. It is uncomfortable and challenging. It asks questions of our faith and demands that we examine our relationship with God.

The prayer represents a commitment to being a disciple and putting God first in our lives and in everything about our lives: what we do, what we say and who we are. The words "You are mine and I am yours" are a gracious reminder that we don't just pray and live in our own strength because God promises to be with us at all times and in all situations. To me it's not just a prayer to be prayed at the beginning of the year, but a prayer to keep by us to remind us that as Christians we are no longer our own but God's, God's deeply loved children.

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Will You Remember Them

As we continue to remember those in our own deanery who need our prayers for comfort and healing as they seek to come to terms with their own loss, let us also pray with a worldwide vision for others, thinking at this time of a murdered evangelist's widow in Colombia.

A Christian widow has been shot dead in her home in north east Columbia by guerrillas of the National Liberation Army [ELN].

On the 7th Jan, as the family's pastor finished an evening devotional in the home of Widow Alicia Castilla, assassins entered the home and opened fire on her with pistols, killing her instantly in front of her three children and her father. The attack occurred four months after the militant group sent Alicia their first demand to abandon her home in Colombia's volatile Arauca area. Before leaving the home, the guerrillas told Alicia's son, 18-year-old Hernan, that the rest of the family had three days to leave the region. After that, the killers warned, they would return and kill other family members one by one.

Alicia's death follows the murder of her husband, lay evangelist Nelson Ramos, two years before in Jan.2011. Ramos, who had come to faith in Christ two years before his death, often shared the gospel in Saravena, a town near Colombia's border with Venezuela. A few months after his conversion, the ELN issued its first threats against him and his family.

Colombia is ranked no. 46 on the 2013 world watch list of countries where Christians are most persecuted. The list measures the degree of freedom Christians have to live out their faith in five spheres of life - private, family, community, congregation and national life, and also measures the degree of violence meted out towards Christians.

Please Pray.

- For Alicia's son, Hernan, and his sisters Rosmy (9) Jackeline (6), facing life without either of their parents. That God will protect them and that they will rebuild their lives.
- For an end to the guerrilla's violent plans against the Christian community.
- For the 30 other families that Open Doors supports across Colombia who have been bereaved in similar circumstances

“Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure - you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts.” Psalm 7v9.

JD

In Memory of Cyril Buttrick

Who died on the 29th September 2012 aged 91.

Cyril was a member of St. Mary's Church for many years and the following article was found amongst his papers after his death, his family have given permission for the article to be printed in the Parish Magazine.



Memories of Cyril Buttrick

The WW2 Years

In August 1939 I was aged eighteen, employed at Firth Vickers as a Clerk but I was given the job of Assistant to Mr. Porter who gave lectures on ARP to employees in Sheffield. We also travelled to Blackheath near Birmingham. We stayed in a hotel in New Street.

I was a member of the Ecclesfield Rover Scouts and when LDV (Dad's Army) was formed, we all joined. This was the "Yorks and Lancs." Regiment and the main duty was enemy aircraft spotting at night time – usually at the top of Yew Lane, Ecclesfield. When not on duty, we slept in the disused nail makers' shed on High Street.

On 28th February 1941, I enlisted with "Royal Signals". I was posted to Catterick, Yorkshire and trained as a Wireless Operator and joined the Signals Unit attached to 125 Anti-Tank Regiment RA.

I was posted overseas and sailed from Gourock Scotland SS ORANSAY in October 1941.

In November 1941 I was transferred to an American troopship "USS DICKMAN".

On 9th December 1941, we called in to Capetown, South Africa.

On 13th December we proceeded north to the Middle East.

Japan attacked and sank the American Fleet at Pearl Harbour. Our convoy of ships diverted to the Far East and arrived in Bombay, India on 27 December 1941.

On 23rd January 1942 we departed on SS "EMPRESS OF ASIA".

On 5th February 1942, we were dive bombed by planes and set on fire. All troops were ordered to 'abandon ship' and were picked up by a small fishing vessel "Kuala".

On 15th February 1942, there was capitulation by British Forces.

Due to water supplies being cut off by the Japanese from the mainland, there were no aircraft and further supplies of ammo.

The first Japanese soldiers appeared with bicycles on their backs and well-armed. They seemed very ugly and were covered in tattoos but they had plenty of gold teeth.

Within a few days, all British troops had to be marched away to Changi, which was an area about fifteen to twenty miles from the city. There was a civilian prison but most troops had tents or slept in the open. One of my pals was very handy with his penknife and he gave me a wooden key on my 21st birthday!

In May 1942, the first company of prisoners were sent by railway vans to Thailand to work on the railway which was to convey Jap forces through Burma to invade India. My unit was included in this and we travelled up north and entered a small village in a jungle clearing on the borders of Thailand. We were surprised by a large troop of Thai young boy scouts who made us welcome and gave us gifts of food to take on our way.

At a village called Nongpladuk, a large area was wired off and was to be made into a transit camp and hospital for the railway workers. Long rows of huts were built with platforms for sleeping and also a cook house. Train loads of troops began to arrive and were sent on to several camps further up the line.

At this base camp, I was detailed as "Camp Runner" which entailed several other jobs.

The hospital doctors found a lot of difficulties in treating the casualties as the Japs refused to supply any medicine and drugs, also instruments. Many men suffered from leg ulcers. These were treated with tablets which had to be reduced to powder and applied to the wounds. Often an amputation was unavoidable. I had the job of chasing over to the butcher at the cook house to borrow his saw.

We had a dentist and I remember the spittoon. It was a tin helmet which was stripped down and a tube attached to the hole in the centre.

Another job I had was brickmaking.

In the cook house, rice was cooked in large pans over brick fireplaces. A pal of mine was a brick maker in Civvy Street and we dug up clay from a corner of the camp. This made good bricks when fired in the cook house fires. A Jap sentry saw our efforts and ordered two columns for the entrance to the camp (no cement provided). Then the rains came and the result was two heaps of bricks, within a very short time!

To be continued

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here.

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg.
16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26,
Sneeze. 27, Bronze.
DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10,
Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in.
20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

The Bellringers Ode

When go is called we don't depart
At stand it's time to sit
Our hunt does not involve a fox
By blows no one is hit.

Royal for us involves no kings
Though queens there may be found
No one is tempted to revolve
When comes the call go round.

When striking we are hard at work
Our covers don't conceal
Five courses do not make a feast
But just a quarter peal.

A single ringer may be spliced
A spliced one still unwed
And when we shout to someone "Bob"
It may be Joe or Fred.

When leading wrong we may be right
When in we're not at home
Delight may bring us all to grief
Surprise may be well known.

So if you watch us at our task
And hear the words we call
There's only one you'll know and love
The merciful "That's all".

If anyone needs an explanation please speak to Stuart.

A Bellringers Prayer

Almighty God may the sound of these bells
Which we ring to thy glory
Cheer the sick, comfort the sorrowful
Warn the heedless and call all willing hearts
To prayer and praise
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Diary for the Month of February 2013

Sunday 3rd

2nd Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion

12 noon Baptism Service

6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 6th

10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

1.00 pm Mothers' Union in the Gatty Hall /
Margaret Myers - Guiding

Thursday 7th

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Ladies' Group/ Michael Waldron –
What Year?

Saturday 9th

6.00 - Mothers' Union Family Party in the

9.00 pm Gatty Hall – Tickets from MU Members

Sunday 10th

Sunday next before Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 13th

10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Thursday 14th

9.30 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Prayer Meeting in Church

2.30 pm Service at Hartwell House

7.30 pm Ladies' Group / Coffee Evening

Sunday 17th

1st Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Monday 18th

7.30 pm Outreach Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20th

10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House

7.30 pm Lent Reflection

Thursday 21st

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Ladies' Group / Kay Thompson – Scouts

Sunday 24th

2nd Sunday of Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

Monday 25th

7.30 pm Ignation Prayer in Church

Wednesday 27 th	7.30 pm	Lent Reflection
Thursday 28 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group / Coffee Evening
	7.30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

From the Registers

Baptisms

2nd December	Mason Lewis Eades
2nd December	Emily Grace Masterton
2nd December	Constance Frances Pearl Swallow
6th January	Miley Sienna Ronnie Harrison
6th January	Lottie Rose Bashforth
6th January	Harriet May Bashforth

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

Funerals

12th September	Audrey Hague	87
24th October	Michael Foster	74
28th November	Albert Glaze	91
5th December	Peter Meredith	46
7th December	Athol Higgins	90
19th December	Aubrey Harris	90

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

Flower Rota

3rd February A. Hackett & J. Beevers
 10th February S. Dale & P. Blackburn
 17th February - No Flowers
 24th February - No Flowers



The Gardening Year – February 2013.

Another year is upon us after one of the wettest years on record. I have been gardening for 50 years and have never known a year as bad, especially for fruit. After retiring to Mablethorpe five years ago I joined a fishing club at Farlethorpe near Alford. The club owned 3 acres of land at the side of the lake, as I was now on the committee we agreed I could start an allotment on this land. We applied to Lincolnshire Community Federation grass roots project for a grant and we were allowed Five Thousand Pounds to start the project off. In 2009 I applied to the National Lottery for a grant from the big lottery fund and we were awarded Ten Thousand Pounds for a Polytunnel. The polytunnel is 64ft long by 24ft wide it has 16 raised beds 8ft long by 4ft wide with room around them for handicapped visitors in wheelchairs. The allotment and polytunnel is fenced off with 6ft high overlapped fence with gravel boards to stop rabbits getting in. I have planted a fruit tree on every 6ft panel around the allotment and polytunnel 85 fruit trees in all. 17 varieties of eating Apple, 9 varieties of cookers, 8 varieties of Plums, 5 Cherries, 3 Apricots, Nectarines and Peaches. Other fruits include blackcurrants, red currants, white currants, 20 gooseberry bushes, three beds of strawberry plants containing 100 plants in each bed. On the allotment I grow between 40 and 50 varieties of vegetables. I have four green houses in which I grow tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. As you can imagine this keeps me quite busy as I am the only one who looks after this project. I work between 40 and 50 hours a week and the work is voluntary. Visitors to the garden project include: Skegness College, Skegness handicapped, a group from the Alzheimer Society, Works experience, Boston Ramblers. Alford Horticultural Society, Schools, Vulnerable adults and individual visitors. Oh! And not forgetting two resident hedgehogs which I acquired from the hedgehog sanctuary near Alford. For anyone interested in our Society the address is www.burghanglingsociety.co.uk

Last year I wrote about fruit. This year I shall write about flowers, fruit and vegetables. February is the month to start preparing the ground for the coming season. Dig over the ground and add manure or compost 4oz of Growmore fertiliser per sq. yd. If your garden has not been limed in the last three years add lime at the rate of a good handful per sq. yds, but not where you are going to grow potatoes as this causes scab on them. Lawns: Keep the lawns well swept and as soon as the weather turns warm begin using the mower.

Flower Garden: divide and replant herbaceous plants whenever there is a favourable opportunity. Plant Honeysuckle, Jasmine, Virginia creeper, Clematis and other handy climbers.

Vegetables: seeds for present sowing include cabbage, early cauliflowers, leeks and Brussels sprouts under glass, and broad beans and peas in the garden. Plant shallots now, press the bulbs half-way into the soil they should be 8in. apart in the rows and the rows should be a foot apart. Also plant parsley seeds as the cold or frost will not harm them.

Colin Williams.

The Challenge of Heating a Medieval Building

When Ecclesfield Church was built most people were very fortunate to have just a single fire to keep them warm in the winter and it was normal to wear many layers of clothing. Ecclesiastical buildings such as York Minster and Fountains Abbey were constructed with complicated engineering and architectural features but surprisingly with no provision for heating – or insulation.

It is believed that the earliest form of heating used in the church was a succession of cast iron stoves in the nave and chancel burning wood and coal. With no chimneys, the smoke used to rise through vents in the roof to the tower and would exit through the louvres in the belfry; traces of the ducts can still be seen. It seems like a thoroughly filthy and unpleasant system but the warmth was probably worth it. More recently, around the end of the 19th century, a large cast iron coal/coke boiler was installed in the cellar under the vestry with cast iron water pipes, some under grills in the floor and some on the walls (radiators were added later). This boiler required large amounts of fuel to keep it going and I can still remember the verger, Jack Philips, walking to church in the winter to re-fuel the boiler at regular intervals; the job was very similar to the fireman on a steam train stoking the engine. This boiler was replaced with an oil fired system in the 1960s and more recently a gas fired boiler.

Unfortunately, the most recent boiler has come to the end of its life early because the manufacturer, the Beeston Boiler Company, is no longer in business so there have been no upgrades and spare parts are no longer available. Following a tendering process to find an installer which would give the best balance of quality and price, a new boiler system has been chosen. The aim has been to choose a well-known supplier which is likely to continue in business and a system which is as efficient as possible. Two Bosch gas condensing boilers have been installed, each one about three times the capacity required for a small house. The ‘intelligent’ controllers work out how long it will take to heat the building and the net efficiency of the system is up to 95% which should be better than the previous system.

We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful Grade 1 listed building but heating it is an increasing financial challenge, especially as there is no easy way to reduce the loss of heat from the walls, windows and roof. With the price of gas ever increasing, the bill for heating the church is currently running at £10k per annum even though the building is only heated when it is going to be used and only the vestry rooms are heated at some times to save gas. A compromise is used on the temperature in the main building which is set to 17° C (63 °F) - a balance between warm and too expensive! We are hoping that the efficiency of the new system will at least offset the annual price rises for a few years.

See back page for more details

<p>Accounts</p> <p>Tax Advice</p> <p>Business advice</p> <p>V.A.T – Payroll</p> <p>Partnerships</p>		<p>Limited Companies</p> <p>Self – assessment</p> <p>Sole traders</p> <p>Sub - contractors</p>
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Ecclesfield Ladies Group.

A Step back in Time – With the Girl Guides.

In December 2011 the Ladies Group were invited to an evening with the Girl Guides in the Gatty Hall, it was a lovely idea as we joined in all their activities.

So it was that on December 6th 2012 the Ladies Group invited the Ecclesfield Guides to an evening of activities from when they too were young and members of the Girl Guides. There are thirty eight Guides at this moment in time separated into five Patrols. So we made five bases of: - Snakes and Ladders, Pin the tail on the Donkey, A Balloon team game, a dice game using Hat, Scarf and Gloves to cut into a bar of Chocolate with a knife and fork and a Photo and Picture Quiz pinned around the walls. Some of the games were over before others so we made the balloon game into a team game much more competitive and exciting.

Afterwards the girls tucked into Hot Dogs and cakes with fruit juice to drink.

This was followed by Carol Singing and the Guides closing ceremony.

The previous week the Guides had had a Christmas Fayre with an Auction and made an amazing £700. They worked really hard finding sponsors for the Auction which included the two Sheffield Football clubs, Crucible Theatre, Retail outlets, and local businesses:- Hair Salon, Cerrones Italian Restaurant, Butcher, Coal Merchant and many more.

PB

M.U. Meeting 5th December 2012.

Several members attended the Advent Service at St. Cuthbert's church prior to coming along to the Gatty Hall for our M.U. Christmas Party.

Twenty two Members attended and we started our meeting with prayers, remembering our dear friend Athol, who was a valued member of the Mothers Union.

A lovely buffet was provided by Maureen and the Committee, including the Buck's Fizz!! There was music, quizzes, good company and a raffle. Three lucky members won a prize! An enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

GL

Census 2011 – England remains a faithful nation

The Church of England welcomed the publication of the latest Census figures which confirmed that Christianity remains the largest religion in England in 2011, with 31.5 million people (59.4 per cent of the population) self-identifying as Christians.

“These results confirm that we remain a faithful nation,” said the Rev Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Archbishop’s Council. “England remains a country where the majority of the nation actively identifies the role that faith plays in their life. Clearly we welcome the fact that Christianity remains the most populous faith in England – with six in ten people identifying themselves as Christian. When all faiths are taken together, people of faith account for two-thirds of the nation - two in every three people identify themselves as having a faith.

“Obviously the fall in those choosing to identify themselves as Christians is a challenge. We need to look closely at the fuller figures published next year and to reflect on what these tell us. One of the reasons may well be fewer people identifying as “Cultural Christians” i.e. those who have no active involvement with churches and who may previously have identified as Christian for cultural or historical reasons. They indicate a changing pattern of religious life in which traditional or inherited identities are less taken for granted than they used to be.”

“The work of the Church of England is not limited to those who declare Christian affiliation. As a Church we continue to serve people of all faiths and none, in parishes, schools, community projects and through the 23.2 million hours voluntary work that churchgoers contribute outside their local church to the local community,” said Rev Arun Arora.

“In a speech earlier this year, Her Majesty the Queen spoke of the Church of England’s ‘duty to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country’. The figures released today show that the Church’s duty concerns the overwhelming majority of people in England.

“The death of Christian England has been greatly exaggerated. Despite a decade of nay saying and campaigning by atheist commentators and groups, six out of ten people in England self-identify as Christians, a figure which rises to more than two-thirds when including people identifying with faith as a whole.

“During the past decade alone the CofE has baptised an average of 2,500 people a week - with a 40% increase in adult baptisms - conducted more than 100 weddings a week, celebrated the ordination of more than 5,000 new priests and maintained more than 16,000 parish church buildings. While 253 churches closed over the past decade, 1,000 new congregations were started through the Fresh Expressions initiative.

“Today’s figures pose questions – not least for most of the London based national media – about whether their perceptions and reporting of faith accurately reflect the reality of a faithful nation, especially when considering the figures in the North East and North West of the country.

“Doubtless, campaigning atheist organisations will attempt to minimise the significance of the majority figures for faith and Christianity. In fact, these figures draw attention to the free ride that had been given to these bodies whose total membership would barely fill half of Old Trafford. For instance there are an estimated 28,000 members of British Humanist Association – the same membership as Union of Catholic Mothers, whilst the National Secular Society has an estimated 5,000 – the same as the British Sausage Appreciation Society.”

Saints - St Valentine’s Day - 14th February

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer’s time the link was assumed to be because on these saints’ day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine’s Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February.

One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or ‘sweethearts’ during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

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Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for de-cluttering

Father, Sometimes there is so much clutter and rubbish in our lives and in our hearts that we can't see where we are, or where we are going. We can't find our way and there is so little room for you to get through, to show us.

Help us to learn to de-clutter regularly; to sweep away the distractions; to throw out the things that take up the space we could share more wholesomely with you.

May we co-operate as you spring-clean our hearts Lord. Help us to make it easy for you to reach us, to sort us out and to fill each part of us with your cleansing Holy Spirit, so that your love will shine through our lives to draw others to you.

In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

God, who knows me

You have searched me and you know me
Lord, who knowest all my ways
Knows my works, though good or lowly –
For you're with me all my days.

Where might I flee from thy Spirit?
Where from thy great presence hide?
In the depth – will you be in it?
Or across the ocean wide?

No! Not e'en the darkness hides me
Not the darkest hour of night!
There is nothing that divides me
From thy loving, holy sight!

For you made my inmost being
Knit me in my mother's womb,
My whole life you're overseeing
From the cradle to the tomb!

Lord, thy wondrous works amaze me
Fearfully have I been made.
How can I then fail to praise thee?
Can my worship ever fade?

By Nigel Beeton

The Church of England website has published a prayer for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We pray for William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge as they prepare to receive the gift of their child.

We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Queen of Sheba

She came from afar with a great retinue,
Her caravan laden with spices and gold
Solomon's fame had spread to her kingdom
She had many hard questions she wished to unfold.

When she witnessed his splendour, his house and his servants,
The favour of God that had made him a king
She could not believe it, until she had seen it,
This king blessed by God with every good thing.

King Solomon answered all of her questions;
Amazed at his wisdom and riches and gold,
The queen praised his God who had blessed him so greatly
She told him: 'the half has never been told'.

And so with our God and mighty Creator,
As our minds try to fathom his great Majesty
Not even the half can we understand now
But we shall when we meet in Eternity.

By Megan Carter

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of

16 Across, — and Dolls (4)

15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)

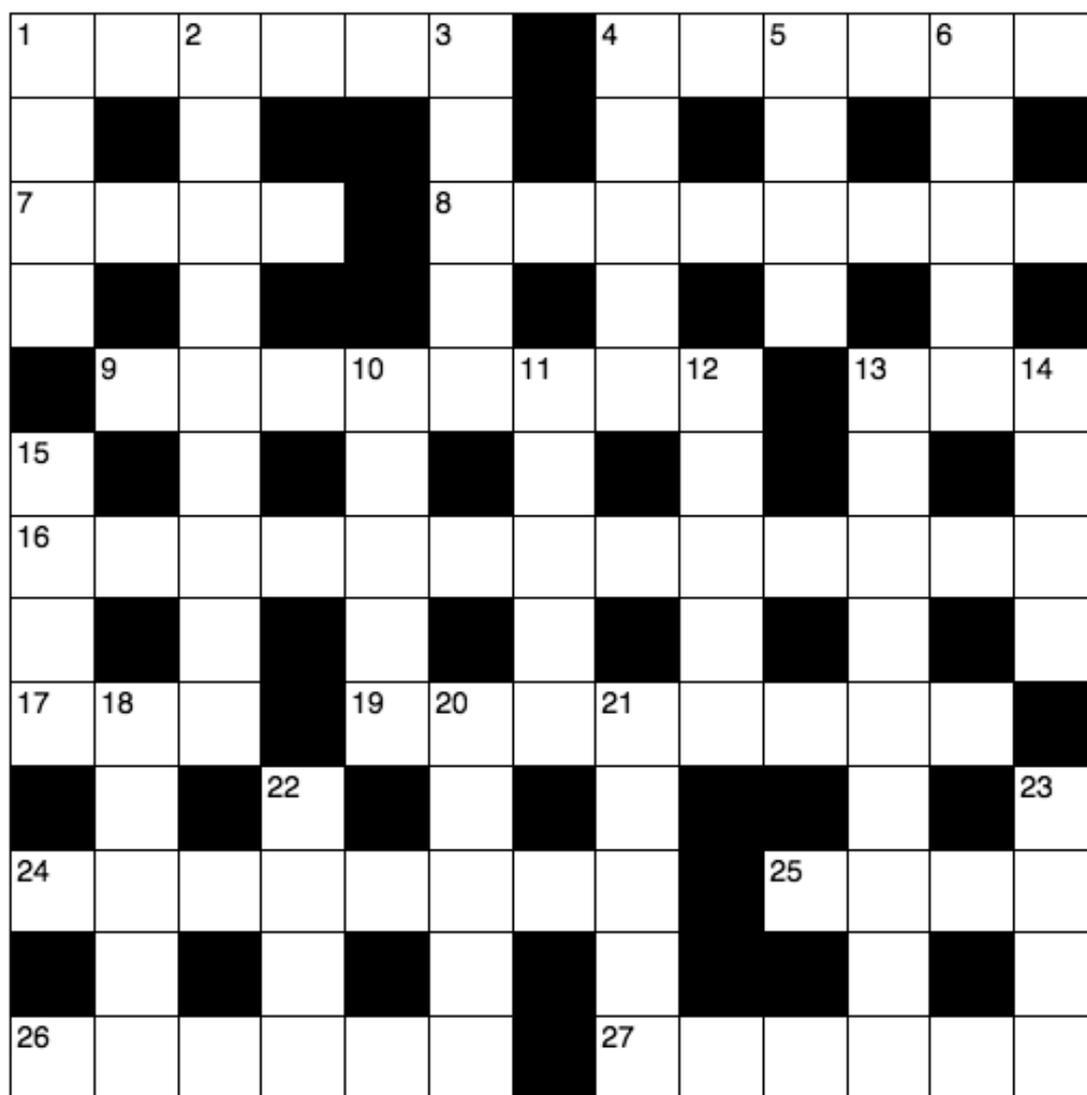
18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3, 2)

20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)

22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 14.

Holy Days - February 13th Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday?

The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God,
You hate nothing that you have made
And forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
That we, worthily lamenting our sins
And acknowledging our wretchedness,
May receive from you, the God of all mercy,
Perfect remission and forgiveness;
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

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Gatty Hall
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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
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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)
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Leader - Mr E. Buttimer
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Group Scout Leader
Rob Kirk Tel. 0114 220 9212

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Mrs P Blackburn  0114 246 8453

The Challenge of Heating a Medieval Building

Continued from page 19



The new boilers located in the original church cellar

For the technical minded, the two boilers are made by Buderus, a company originally formed in 1731, now part of the Robert Bosch Group, which manufactures commercial boilers in Germany and the Netherlands. Although the company has no connection with the original English Worcester Boiler Company, as both are now owned by Bosch, the UK boilers are badged “Worcester”. They are connected in cascade and each has a variable output which can modulate from 12kW to 65kW. The boiler circuit works through a plate heat exchanger and has integral pumps on the primary side with an expansion chamber. The secondary system uses the original pipes and radiators with a gravity fed header tank but with a new generation Grundfos Magna 3 pump which has an automatically variable speed and head. The boiler control will automatically select one or two boilers, as required. The building control system is a Heatmiser optimiser managing two separate zones with space sensors, water flow temperature sensors, an outside temperature sensor and with timed overrides for each zone. The installation has been carried out by Byfield Heating Ltd. of Ferrybridge.

ACR