

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for November 2013

Price 60p

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

First Words...

- **All Souls Memorial Service** – This will take place on Sunday 3rd November at 4.00 pm. All our welcome, particularly if you have lost a loved one this year.
- **Remembrance Day Service** – Our traditional Remembrance Day Service will take place at 10.00 am on Sunday 10th November. Please come along and remember all those who have given their lives in the defence of this nation and pray for the brave men and women who continue to serve in the armed forces.

Daniel Hartley



Prayer for Month

The Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Front Cover – South Elevation & War Memorial
Back Cover – Ecclesfield Blues JFC

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The Vicars' Letter

The Death of an Icon

Lou Reed, American rock musician and songwriter, died on 27th October. Hopefully this will not be news to you and hopefully you will have heard of Lou Reed. I make no apologies for listing Lou Reed as one of my musical heroes. I remember, at the age 15, listening to *The Velvet Underground and Nico*, the 1967 album that he recorded as part of the band the Velvet Underground. I couldn't believe how amazing it was and how such a dark album had been recorded at the same time as so much of the "hippie" music of its day. There was plenty of "power" in the Velvets' debut album, but not much "flower"! Lou Reed's music has been part of my life ever since and, upon reading, of his death on Sunday night, I donned the headphones and listened again to one of his classics.

Lou Reed was, and is, an icon of his age. He speaks to us of changes that occurred in the post-war western world, changes that found fruition in the counter-culture of the 1960s and have informed our culture ever since. This culture continues to present challenges to religious belief and, in particular, to religious expression. Religious practice requires deep and substantial commitment and naturally allies itself with cultural expressions that allow for deep and substantial reflection. There is an uneasy relationship between religious practice and popular culture. At times the Church has believed that it has bridged the gap between the two with "pop-style" hymns and "dumbed-down" expression, but it has not. The world portrayed so well by Lou Reed and others is a world of superficiality and brokenness, a world of despair and endlessly unanswered questions.

It is a challenge to the Church of every age to understand the culture within which it finds itself. That challenge still faces us today. We often draw our ranks from those who are most uneasy with the wider culture and this is certainly true of the clergy. Listening to Lou Reed was not on the syllabus when I trained to be a priest and I don't suspect that it is for those training today - nor, in reality, should it be. Yet what we should do, what we need to do, is to seek to understand the world in which we live and minister. So listen to a bit of Lou Reed, or watch a film that exposes you to the culture in which we live. Yes it may be dark and dirty, it may even offend you, but so what. That, as they say, is life!

Daniel Hartley

Bellringers' Outing, Saturday 28th September 2013

Saturday 28th September was a long anticipated day – the date of the Ecclesfield tower outing to visit a number of churches in Nottinghamshire. Most of our ringers were going, their partners and some friends from other towers who attend our practice nights and help us out with Sunday service ringing. We were also lucky, so late in September, to have a day so warm and sunny it could have been in August!

Our first tower of the day was St. Nicholas, Bawtry. This church dates back to the 12th century, and amongst other interesting historical features, the belfry windows are medieval in date. There were six bells here that I think most of us found easy to ring, and it was a good start to the outing. After we had finished ringing, most of us paid a brief visit to the parish hall, where there was a fund raising morning going on, selling craft items and jumble, as well as coffee and cakes, which unfortunately we didn't have time to try!

Our second tower was St. Bartholomew, Sutton-cum-Lound, a small village church. One of the first things that I noticed here was the colour. The kneelers, which had been half-cross stitched with different designs, were lined up very visibly in rows on top of the pews. We were quick to find some that had bell related pictures! This church had a ground floor ring of eight. These bells were more difficult to control, and we had a few difficulties getting the hang of them.

We then had a drive over to St. Peter & St. Paul, North Wheatley. We had lunch on a grassy bank by the side of the church, whilst some sunbathed. St. Peter & St. Paul is a Grade II Listed Building, mostly dating from the fifteenth century. The wooden stairs to the ringing room seemed to date from the same era – the wood so ancient that there was not a single level step amongst them! Someone had kindly stuck rubber treads to them, but they didn't help all that much. The six bells here sounded particularly loud whilst you were ringing them, but they weren't too difficult to control.

The next tower was St. Peter, Clayworth. This was a small, quiet village church, famous for the Traquair Murals, painted by renowned Scottish artist Phoebe Anna Traquair (1852-1936). We had chance to admire them before going to ring. In both this church and the next one we visited, the ringing room was visible from the nave of the church – presumably so that the vicar can keep an eye on the ringers! There were eight bells here, and though most of us seemed to manage them well, I found that they caused me a few difficulties.

Continued on page 12

The Lindisfarne Gospels

The saxophonist Christian Forshaw and The Sanctuary Ensemble drew me and two friends to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) in Northumberland at the end of July this year to a concert they were giving in St Mary's Church on the Island. Christian had been invited to write a piece of music to celebrate the moving of the Lindisfarne Gospels from the British Library to Durham where they were exhibited until September.



Lindisfarne in Northumberland is the birthplace of the Lindisfarne Gospels. The illuminated manuscript gospel book is said to have been produced around the year 700 in a monastery on Lindisfarne. They are presumed to be the work of a monk named Eadfrith who became Bishop of Lindisfarne in 698 and died in 721.

The gospels are richly illustrated and were originally encased in a fine leather treasure binding covered with jewels and metals made in the 8th century. During the Viking raids on Lindisfarne this jewelled cover was lost and a replacement was made in 1852. The Lindisfarne Gospels contain the gospels of Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, concerning the life of Jesus. The book was produced for ceremonial use, as a representation of the splendour of God's word and the Christian religion. It would also have been an important contribution to the cult of St Cuthbert, which turned Lindisfarne into a place of pilgrimage in the late 7th and 8th centuries.

Due to continuing Viking raids the monastic community abandoned Lindisfarne in 875 taking with them the body of St Cuthbert, and other relics and books including the Lindisfarne Gospels. Eventually the community and the Lindisfarne Gospels settled at the Priory in Chester le Street, then moved on to Durham Priory. For a short time in 1069 the gospels were back on Lindisfarne, before returning to Durham in 1104. They were taken from Durham to London after the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII where they are now in the possession of the British Library.

The Gospels' returned to the North East of England this year, albeit temporary, prompted the commissioning of a work by Christian Forshaw entitled *The Hand of Eadfrith* which received its première at St Mary's Church on Holy Island on the 27 July. It is a four movement work depicting the characters of Man, Lion, Calf and Eagle as illustrated by Saint Eadfrith within the gospels. Whilst *The hand of Eadfrith* was the most significant work in the concert the Ensemble introduced another piece entitled "A Time" based on Ecclesiastes 3 and is well worth listening to.

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The Bishop's Letter, November 2013

This month Bishop Peter writes:

Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King 2014 will mark the conclusion of our Diocesan Centenary Celebrations. The theme of our Centenary Year is “Pilgrimage”. In addition to celebrating the past and the present the Centenary will encourage us to journey, to continue our pilgrimage into the future, to pass on the Gospel of Christ to others. The Feast of Christ the King is a timely reminder of our calling to reach out in the love of Christ to those most in need and in doing so witness to the transforming presence of God.



As we come to the Feast of Christ the King this year let us respond to this calling now. The readings for this feast day remind us of the last judgement and in that there is a challenge to each of us to remember that being a Christian is never something just inward looking. The Christian life is not a self-centred one. God is love and the Christian life must be a life that reflects that. Judgement is not about how we respond to abstract rules and norms; it is about how we respond in love to God who is love. We will be judged by how we have loved and not just those most close to us, but how we have loved the most marginal, the people with whom we would not normally have any contact. Herein lies part of the challenge of the Centenary Celebrations.

How will we reach to those who suffer hunger or thirst, the naked, the stranger, and the sick, those in prison? As we consider the present climate, how will we reach out to those who are in financial crisis, in debt, reliant on food banks and other charities? How will we reach out to those who are oppressed, emotionally and physically distressed or abused? How will we reach out to those who are spiritually hungry and thirsty and share the Good News with them?

Christ identified with those most vulnerable and on the edge and when we engage with the most marginalised and those seeking Christ we discover that we encounter Christ in them. They reveal to us who God is, they are symbols and sacraments of God. As Christians we must not tolerate models of society that alienate others from attaining the fullness of their dignity, nor must we be bowed down and oppressed by those who try to marginalise our faith and would have others believe that Christ and our Christian faith is irrelevant in today's society.

Continues on page 13

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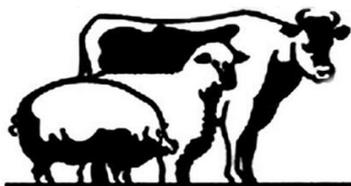
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Will You Remember Them – November 2013

This month, Christian churches around the world will take time to remember those Christian believers who are persecuted for their faith, simply because they believe in Jesus and are not ashamed to do so. This is an International Day of Prayer. (IDOP) St. Mary's will include support for this in one of its services during November.

This month's article is to help us focus on one specific situation in the Punjab Region of Pakistan where in JUNE 2009 Asia Bibi was picking berries in a farmer's field to earn a few rupees to help the family budget, a married lady with four children and a husband Ashiq who worked in a brick making yard. They were one of only three Christian families in a Muslim village. Asia and other women (all Muslim) had a break to drink cool water from a well, the Muslim women considered the well their own. When Asia filled and drank from a metal cup and then offered it to other women they considered it unclean and contaminated because she was a Christian and had defiled the well. Asia defended her faith belief, but was then accused of blasphemy because of her action and witness. The Muslim women demanded action from the local Muslim leaders and police. She was charged with blasphemy, arrested and sent to prison.

17-months after her arrest she was convicted of violating Pakistan's blasphemy law against the prophet Muhammad and was sentenced to death in 2010, and is still on death row today awaiting the result of her appeal against her sentence. Both Salman Taseer, governor of Punjab and Shahbaz Bhatti, Minister for Minorities who supported her case, have been murdered by extremists.

Asia has recently been transferred to another prison further away from her home area. Her husband is now allowed to visit once a month. The journey takes 5hours instead of the previous 1hour. Asia has recently been sick and in a lot of pain. The family have been forced to move from their home village for safety.

Please Pray For - Asia Bibi

- For healing on her body
- Encouragement to her spirit
- Her release from prison
- And for Ashiq and the family.

There is also a book published – **Blasphemy** by Asia Bibi. This is the True, Heart-Breaking Story of the woman sentenced to death over a cup of water. Available from Amazon and Waterstones.

Other information on line from: - www.prisoneralert.com/profiles

JD

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



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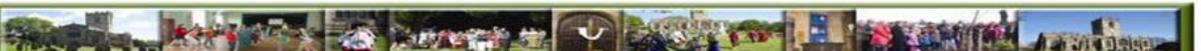
Friday 8th November 2013

From 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

Cakes - Raffle - Bring & Buy

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Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield

Bellringers' Outing, Continued

We then moved on to the next village, Gringley-on-the-Hill, a name that was familiar to most of us as somewhere passed by *en route* to Gainsborough and Lincoln. This was an interesting village, although the church, St. Peter & St. Paul, had a slightly damp smell to it. The bells were quite easy to ring, and sounded good, too. Two of the bells were only added in 2002, but the oldest of this ring of six dates back to 1520!

It soon came round the last of the tower of the outing, which was Holy Trinity, Everton. This tower had a special significance to me, as I had rung here before, on a previous outing in March 2012, the day before I rang my first ever quarter peal. There was a ladder access to the ringing room, and when everyone was inside, a trap door closed behind you – which you had to stand on, if you rang the second! Not many people were keen to volunteer to ring this bell!

We didn't have far to go after finishing ringing here, as Jennifer Armeson had booked tables for us all at the Blacksmith's Arms for an evening meal. The food was excellent, and it was good to have the chance to talk for a while about how enjoyable the day had been before heading home. Thanks are especially due to Jennifer for getting in touch with all the towers and arranging the outing, and to Stuart for leading the ringing.

Ecclesfield in Bloom Christmas Fair

St. Marys – Ecclesfield

Saturday 16th November 10 am to 12 noon

Refreshments available

A range of stalls selling cards, cakes, new / unwanted gifts and
more

And a Raffle

The Bishop's Letter – Continued

The Feast of Christ the King is a celebration of community living in harmony and rejecting all forms of division and violence. Our churches, our individual Christian lives, must be places where the values of God's kingdom are taught, realised and lived out. As we look to our Centenary Celebration, let it be a year of rejoicing and fun and also a year of hopeful expectation and looking forward. Let us give thanks to God for leading us as the church in this diocese to where we are and for what we have inherited. Let us also commit ourselves to keeping the kingdom values we have inherited, letting them shape and develop us in the future as we reach out to the most marginalised and needy, to those who as yet do not know Christ as Lord and Saviour, as we reach out to them all in the love of Jesus Christ. May we be a place of communion for all, of renewal in our Christian faith and a great blessing to those we meet.

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St ANDREW feast day November 30th

The Bible tells us that Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first disciples to follow Jesus. They were fishermen working at their nets when Jesus called them. It was a hard thing to do, to leave everything for an uncertain way of life but Andrew knew that Jesus so special that he had to share this wonderful knowledge with others.



Andrew followed Jesus for the rest of his life. After Jesus' death he travelled widely spreading the message and building the early church. He was arrested for being a follower of Christ and condemned to death on the cross. Legend says that he was crucified on a diagonal cross.

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and his cross is on the Scottish flag which is a white cross on a blue background – the blue is for the sea which seems right for a fisherman.

SAIL AWAY

Andrew and Simon fished with nets from the shore or from small boats. You could make a fishing fleet of small boats and decorate their sails with St Andrew's cross.

You will need a polystyrene box or tray like the ones you see at the fruit shop or supermarket.

Using a bread knife, carefully cut out several different shapes and sizes.



Find a thin stick for the masts (you could use a pencil) and cut out a sail in paper. Thread or stick the sail onto the mast.



How do fish go into business?
They start on a small scale.



What day of the week do fish hate?
Frydays.

Why are gold fish orange?
The water makes them rusty.

Diary for the Month of November 2013

Friday 1st 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice for Learners / Silent Ringing
 Saturday 2nd 9.00 am Prayer Breakfast

Sunday 3rd The Fourth Sunday Before Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
 12 noon Baptism Service
 4.00 pm Memorial Service
 Monday 4th 7.30 pm PCC meets in Church
 Tuesday 5th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Wednesday 6th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
 1.00 pm MU meets in the Gatty Hall / Meditation with the
 Revd. Jeni Fryer
 Thursday 7th 9.30 am Holy Communion
 7.30 pm Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall/ Mike Spick –
 Sheffield A- Z
 Friday 8th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice for Learners / Silent Ringing
 Saturday 9th 6.30 pm Barnsley Bell Ringers Meeting & Bell Ringing

Sunday 10th The Third Sunday Before Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Service of Remembrance followed by a Muffled Peal
 by the Bell Ringers
 6.30 pm Holy Communion
 Tuesday 12th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing AGM in the Choir Vestry / No Practice
 Wednesday 13th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
 Thursday 14th 9.30 am Holy Communion
 2.00 pm Service at Hartwell House
 Ladies' Group – Dinner Outing
 Friday 15th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice for Learners / Silent Ringing
 Saturday 16th 9.30 am Ecclesfield in Bloom - Christmas Fayre

Sunday 17th The Second Sunday Before Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
 4.00 pm Living Stones Service
 6.30 pm Evening Service with Prayers for Healing
 Tuesday 19th 7.30 pm pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Wednesday 20th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
 7.30 pm Ecclesfield Deanery Synod Meet in Church
 Thursday 21st 9.30 am Holy Communion
 7.30 pm Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall / Jewellery Evening
 Friday 22nd 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice for Learners / Silent Ringing

Sunday 24th	The Sunday Next Before Advent
	8,30 am Holy Communion
	10.00 am Parish Communion
	6.30 pm Prayer and Praise Service
Monday 25 th	7.30 pm Ignatian Prayer in Church
Tuesday 26 th	7.30 pm Prayer Meeting in Church
	7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 27 th	10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm Fabric Team Meeting in Church
Thursday 28 th	9.30 am Holy Communion
	7.30 pm Ladies' Group in the Gatty Hall / Coffee Evening
Friday 29 th	7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice for Learners / Silent Ringing

From the Registers

Baptisms

6th October	Samuel James Battersby
6th October	Rubie Leigh Callinswood
6th October	Alfred Michael Mann
6th October	Ralph Harry Mann

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

Weddings

5th October	Christopher Bounese and Melanie Wright
-------------	--

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

Flower Rota

3rd November	Z. Colton
10th November	P. Leach & O Robinson
17th November	Vacant
24th November	D. Banham & A. Southern



A Prayer for HRH Prince George

We thank almighty God for the gift of new life.

May God the Father, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen

Gardening Year - November

The Flower Garden – Plan the new flower garden this month, cut the outline of the beds before digging dig the new beds deeply turning the soil over to at least 10in.deep. Give a dressing of lime over the soil after digging. Immediate planting can be made in mild weather of wallflowers, polyanthus and tulips. Where sheltered positions can be given sweet peas may be sown this month they can be sown in pots is a cold frame is available and kept under glass till the spring. Open out trenches for the sowing of exhibition sweet peas next year, trenches should be at least 18in. deep preferably 2ft, loosen the bottom soil and leave the trenches open until Christmas. Add manure leaves and other vegetable refuse to the trenches through the winter. Lift Dahlias and gladioli, store in a dry frost proof shed or attic, and protect all plants of doubtful hardiness. Plant peonies in deeply trenched and well manured ground. Cut down chrysanthemums that have bloomed and keep the soil in the pots moist to induce a good production of shoots for cuttings. Pansies may be potted off as a reserve for filling up vacancies or for making new beds in the spring. The Spanish and English iris may still be planted outdoors; lily of the valley may also be planted. Anemone, Canterbury bells, primroses, pansies, sweet Williams, violets and wallflowers may still be planted out.

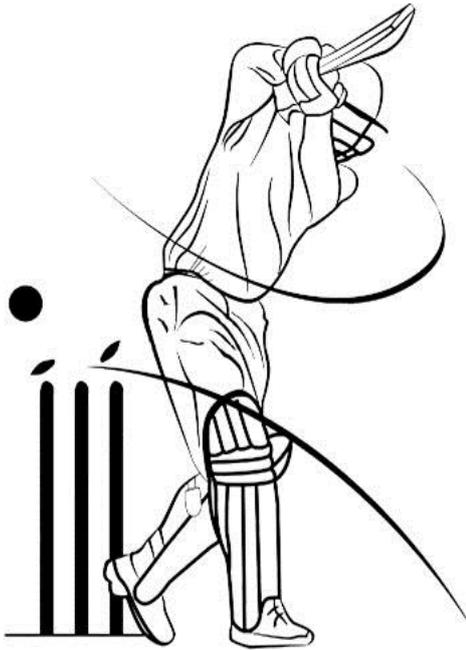
The Shrubbery – deciduous shrubs should be planted when the leaves are absent. Make holes wider and deeper than are at first needed spread the roots out when planting, do not let them hang down into the holes, cover with fine soil and give the plants a shake to ensure that the soil particles surround all the roots put in a particularly strong stake before filling in the soil. Tread the soil firm after planting; tie a label with the name etc., onto the stake. After the first frost examine newly planted scrubs and press back any weather loosened soil round the stems. Roses are frequently treated with animal manure in large does, this if good, but should be supplemented by a good dressing of lime during the month. Half a pound to one square yard is the maximum amount and where isolated specimens are grown this quantity for each will not be too much.

Vegetables – One important matter in the vegetable garden this month is to collect all fallen leaves. These are useful for making leaf-mould. As much digging as possible should be done during dry weather, leave the surface rough for the frost to do its job. Plan next year's cropping in the vegetable plot.

Fruit – during this month the greater part of planting and transplanting of fruit trees should be carried out. Currants and gooseberries should be planted now and should be encouraged by thorough preparation of the soil. They thrive best and give the finest results if grown in rich well drained loam.

Colin Williams

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



It is very sad to have to write a necessary postscript to what has otherwise been a successful season. On the night of September 27th/28th, the club was the target of thieves. They cut the lock off the gate with bolt cutters, drove straight across the wicket and broke into the score box and storage building. This involved bending the steel security door, cutting the additional padlock with bolt cutters and completely ruining the metal roller shutter door which was protected with two locks. They then stole the professional pitch mower, an Allett, which was only purchased just over 12 months ago. In addition, they stole a John Deere garden tractor and one or two other items of machinery.

The Allett mower in particular is only of use to cricket clubs, golf clubs which still mow the greens by hand and maybe bowling clubs. The total cost of the theft is estimated at around £14k and we still await confirmation of the insurance position. Disappointingly, the police have chosen not to visit the club even once to take the details of the stolen equipment, to view the damage, tyre marks and footprints or to take fingerprints. We have not been offered any advice on how we can prevent a recurrence and they have not offered any assistance with our work to alert as many sports clubs as possible of the details of the stolen equipment and the serial numbers. I will let you form your own view as to whether that is acceptable.

With a view towards next season, we need several new players for our Under 11 cricket team. Anyone who was under 11 on 1st September 2013 and who has shown some aptitude for playing sport is eligible and would be welcome to come to our pre-season practice in the New Year. You will then have the chance to have a go and see if you can make the team. Please contact Steve Fletcher on 07764 559747 for further details.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

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(Ages 5 - 11)



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Sunday 8th December 2013

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

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Registration slips available on the day.



www.stmarysecclesfield.com



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

ACROSS: Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 4, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

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Mothers' Union – October 2013

1st Sheffield Children's Hospital Scout Group – Leader Kay Thompson

Maureen read the notices, Irene led a short service after which our speaker – Kay Thompson was welcomed.

She began by telling us that she was invited to start the group six years ago. Drawing together a group of about seven or eight colleagues alongside her they had to undergo specialist training to work with the children.

A lower age limit of six was first set but soon disappeared as younger patients and their siblings wanted to join in – along with parents and grandparents if they wished or perhaps were needed. The meetings are set round special events rather than normal scouting activities and have recently included Roald Dahl Day, Space Day and the birth of Prince George who was sent a card and a very special teddy. A particular highlight last year was watching the Olympic Torch pass by the hospital. Later in the evening it was returned so the children could have their photographs taken with it.

The hand-knitted teddy has become a feature for the scouts and every child receives one. They are knitted by friends, supporter's family – in fact- anyone! (patterns available). Just one criteria-they are always stuffed with love.

Over the years a bond has formed between the scouts, leaders, families and staff so that the trust is evident. The leaders never ask the children what is wrong with them or how long they have been in hospital. Some children only come once or twice but others perhaps with long term illness such as eating disorders, cystic fibrosis or blood disorders remain scouts for a while.

Kay went on to tell us some heart-warming stories, some unbelievable and some horrific ones too. The anguish of parents making provision for their other children whilst visiting a sick child. Whole families are involved. This provoked many questions and anecdotes from the M.U. group who had been totally enthralled throughout the afternoon.

We enjoyed Kay's talk so much. Her passion and enthusiasm for her work (vocation?) shone through. Thank you and congratulations on the Silver Acorn Award.

P.A.B.

P.S. Hope the “Butterfly” themed 7th Birthday Party went with a swing!

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Wheel Chair Access

Prayers and Poems Page

Gracious God

We pray for all those who suffer from violence;
May they know your healing and peace.
We pray for those who have died and those who are bereaved;
May they be comforted and sustained by your love.
We pray for political leaders in Britain and across the world;
May they seek wisdom and work together for peace.
May your kingdom come, your will be done
And the earth be filled with your glory.

*A prayer written by the Revd. Ruth Gee,
President of the Methodist Conference with
regard to the conflict in Syria*

Remembrance

1939 and George, my father, was eager to enlist. He soon chummed up with Bert. Together they faced the hell of the gunfire and the trenches. One day there was a loud explosion. George threw himself down and Bert fell on top. Shrapnel riddled Bert's body, some going through into George. His chum was dead, but miraculously George was still alive. Remembrance Sunday at the Albert Hall. Thousands of petals were falling, each one representing a lost life. Tears welled up as George remembered his chum. He knew that but for Bert he would have been one of those petals.

By Megan Carter

Walking back to life

I look down at the bed and say,
"Aren't you getting up to-day?"
and then I potter, hoping you'll
get in my way
whilst emptiness
declares that Death has robbed me.

I try to tidy tidiness,
adjust myself to timelessness,
and take each memory from its store
as tears caress
ethereal hands
that, from Heaven's shore, would draw
me.

And then I sit down in my chair
where memory becomes a prayer
of thankfulness for all we had.
Then, from despair,
I find myself
walking back to life more boldly.

*By Sam Doubtfire a former vicar of
Keswick*

A Friend on wheels

Is it strange, or slightly bizarre
To give a name to a car?
Can an object of steel
Know the way that we feel
As we travel to places afar?

And yet, a lot of us do
Call them Sarah, or Ruby, or Sue,
Or Albert or Fred
Or Harvey or Jed
Or Bertie, or Billie, or Blue!

But, whether it's scruffy, or smart
We're always quite sorry to part;
And we care how it feels
Our dear friend on wheels
And we're certain it has a warm heart!

By Nigel Beeton

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 and 20 Down** ‘Lord of all — , Lord of all — , whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy’ (11,3)
- 9** Moses’ question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: ‘Why are you — your fellow Hebrew?’ (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10** Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline — (2,3)
- 11** ‘At even — the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay’ (3)
- 13** A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16** ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but — for the gift my Father promised’ (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17** Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18** Peter’s response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: ‘We must — God rather than men!’ (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20** Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, — Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21** Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22** ‘Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat — — ’ (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23** Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25** Tree (3)
- 28** ‘No fear of me should — you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you’ (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29** For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30** Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church’s calendar (11)

Clues Down

- 2** ‘O Jerusalem... how — I have longed to gather your children together’ (Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3** Way out (4)
- 4** Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5** Done (anag.) (4)
- 6** Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7** Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8** Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12** Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14** Frozen (3)
- 15** Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

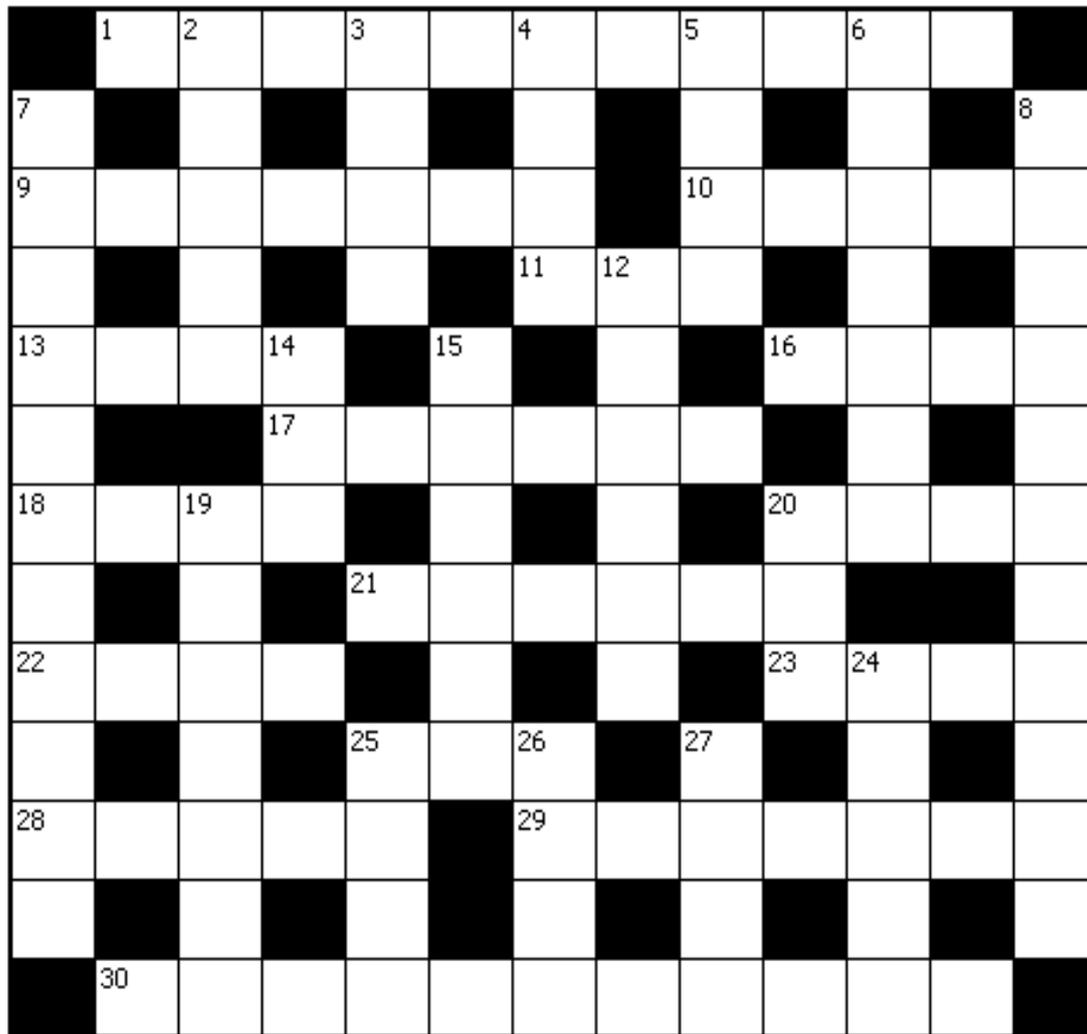
20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the — of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 21

A Big Thank You

To everyone at St. Mary's, a big thank you for your care and consideration, your offers of help and your prayers. It has been much appreciated - Tom is now well on his way to a full recovery. Many thanks once again.

With love and best wishes to you all.

Tom and Lynda Pearce

Saint of the Month - Andrew - First Disciple of Jesus, 30th November

Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on November 30th, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us - though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltire X' of Scotland.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

All the more strange then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking' all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

David Winter



We are proud to present the popular

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Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm in Grenoside
Community Centre

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am til 1.15pm approx.*

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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

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. Buttimer
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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Secretary – Joe Webster 245 2518
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If you would like your local group advertised please contact:
Mrs P Blackburn  0114 246 8453

Ecclesfield Blues JFC

Ecclesfield Blues JFC is proud to display the iconic image of Ecclesfield church as part of their club crest. The newly formed 'Blues' under 8's team are competing in the Purple Division in their first ever season. Under the guidance of Manager Rob Barber and Assistant Manager Carl Townend, the team have already had some impressive results against some well-established teams and continue to improve as a squad. Principles of hard work, honesty, commitment and teamwork will mean that the Blues go from strength to strength.



The team's home ground is the now well-manicured 'top pitch' of Ecclesfield Primary School thanks to the kind co-operation of the school. We warmly welcome local spectators to come and cheer on Ecclesfield's newest football sensations whilst indulging in some of the refreshments on offer.

If you would like to know more about Ecclesfield Blues JFC you can find out the scores, match reports and fixtures at: -

www.pitchero.com/clubs/ecclesfieldjfc/

We also really welcome offers of support from local businesses and if you would like to do this we would love to hear from you.

Come on you Blues!!!

