

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for February 2014

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Price 60p

First Words...

- **Living Stones** – Our next Living Stones Service will take place at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 16th February. Please come along and join in with this new and exciting venture and bring a friend!
- **Lent 2014** – Lent begins on 5th March. We'll mark the beginning of Lent with traditional Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes. More details of Lent in the March Magazine
- **Keeping The Saints** – This year we're going to seek out and enhance our worship by "Keeping the Saints". Wherever possible we'll be holding a Service of Holy Communion to celebrate the most important Feast Days in the Church's Year. Our first such celebration will take place on **Wednesday 19th March at 7.30 p.m.** on St Joseph's Day. Please join with us – the saints of the past have much to teach us about the present and the future!

Daniel Hartley



Prayer for Month

Our Prayer - Be bold, be strong

Be bold, be strong
For the Lord your God is with you.
Be bold, be strong,
For the Lord your God is with you.
I am not afraid,
I am not dismayed,
Because I'm walking in faith and victory,
Come on and walk in faith and victory,
For the Lord your God is with you.

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Front Cover – South West Elevation - Winter
Back Cover – Christmas Tree Festival

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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

The Vicars' Letter - It's all about the confidence!

Fans of the fashion presenter (and, more recently, TV chef) Gok Wan will recognise these words. He was encouraging women to be proud of their bodies. Basically, if you're not confident when it comes to your own body then nobody will be. Confidence increases attraction.

We had a great Christmas here at St Mary's, Ecclesfield. Over 1000 people joined us for worship over the Christmas period. What a fantastic feeling to worship with so many people. Over Christmas lunch I found myself reflecting on the acts of worship that we offered at Christmas and how we might harness the enthusiasm for 2014. I found myself coming back to Gok Wan – it's all about the confidence.

During the Christmas season we handed out invitations to people to join us in 2014. We invited people to our 10 a.m. Parish Communion Service (every Sunday) and our 4.00 p.m. Living Stones Service for children and families (3rd Sunday of the month). At the top of the invitation was a heading:

2014 at St Mary's, Ecclesfield – make this Church your Church!

The invitation was bold and unapologetic and, I hope, sets the tone for 2014. Throughout 2014 we will be inviting people to our acts of worship at St Mary's, focusing on different services at different times of the year.

There is, of course, more to Christian life than worship. There is teaching, nurture, care and commitment. But I believe passionately that Christian life begins with worship. Good and lively worship sets us on the right path and keeps us on the right path. Being together at 10 o'clock on a Sunday morning fills us with energy and enthusiasm for the week ahead. More than this, it fills us with confidence. Our worship isn't an optional extra for those who like that sort of thing. It is something available to all and to which all should be encouraged to attend. Do you have the confidence to invite others to join with us?

I am filled with confidence for 2014. I believe that God is inviting us into growth, but I also believe that we must accept this invitation. This invitation begins as we redouble our efforts to attend worship every Sunday and to encourage others to do the same. This invitation begins as we continue to find new ways of worshipping God. This invitation begins we continue to nurture in the power of the Spirit.

I started with a quote from Gok Wan but I'll end with a quote from a well-known Christian chorus:

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you.

Daniel Hartley

On using Glebe land for allotments

The Rectory - St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal in your parish into allotments – although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we similarly decided to let part of our Glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity of re-living his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession, preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair and a flask of coffee. He then settles down for a comfortable hour while occasionally supervising the work, once reports on the local hunt have been read.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches. Neighbouring plot-holders look forward to the agricultural equivalent of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

I am sure you will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work. Just make sure you get a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Hear My Small Voice.

A Poem

*My grandma she was very strict
In her old fashioned ways.
All children should be seen not heard
We often heard her say.*

*I would have loved to speak up
But never made a sound,
I knew how to be quiet
when grandma was around.*

*Have things changed for the better
When we see our youths about?
It's the adults now who stay quiet
And they who always shout.*

*While our children are little
Let's listen to each voice
Help them express their feelings
And give them all a choice.*

*Then maybe as they're older
They'll respect another's needs
For I'm sure strong adults can grow
From little troubled seeds.*

*Jesus loved all children
And as they gathered round
Did he say sit with hands on mouths
And never make a sound?*



Elizabeth Ann Oldknow



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The Bishop's Letter, January - February 2014

This month Bishop Steven writes:

In all circumstances not for all circumstances

I've asked the whole Diocese to take Psalm 95 as our text at the start of our centenary year.

The first four verbs in Psalm 95 all summon us to joy: let us sing.... let us heartily rejoice... let us come with thanksgiving... let us be glad in him with psalms.



But what if we don't feel like rejoicing? It's raining and cold outside. February has just begun. It's Tuesday and we have to go to work. The problems we are dealing with are just too many. Or else there is a great grief and sadness in our lives at present. How then are we to hear this call to rejoice?

The psalms as a whole carry the whole range of human emotions. If you read them from 1 to 150 you will sense a tension between the major key of praise and the minor key of lament. Both are given space. By the end of the psalter, the major key prevails. But there are many psalms too which give us space to mourn, to wrestle with God, to express our anger and pain and grief. Jesus picks up and affirms all of them in the most tender of the beatitudes: "Blessed are those who mourn"

So we know from the rest of the Psalms that we are meant to take our own pain and the pain of other seriously. How then are we to hear the call to joy in the midst of a suffering world?

The key is learning (and relearning through life) a very simple distinction. It's a kind of Christian joy 101. The distinction is between rejoicing for all circumstances (which is a massive distortion) and rejoicing in the LORD in all circumstances (which is the path of grace).

Occasionally we get the two mixed up. Christians find themselves twisting their emotions to give thanks for difficult things in their lives. We should lament and grieve and cry out in pain and anger. Jesus did these things.

But when we have grieved (and sometimes even in the midst of our grieving) we are also encouraged to look for the threads of joy not in the bad

circumstances but in the constant presence and love of God, whose mercy endures for ever.

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say: Rejoice” writes St. Paul. He wrote those words from prison, on the brink of losing his life. He wrote them to a church which was tearing itself apart through needless quarrels.

His words have deep roots in Psalm 95. Let us be glad and rejoice today not for the bad things but in the LORD. Let’s carry that note of joy and that summons to joy in the gospel right through this year.

+ *Steven*

Editor

Bishop Steven has written a short series of daily reflections on Psalm 95 designed to be used as part of daily prayers in the first part of the year.

To find them go to - www.bishopofsheffield.blogspot.co.uk

Or

Follow Bishop Steven on twitter for regular posts: @Steven_Croft

You can also follow Bishop Peter on @peterburrows101



Mothers Union meeting December 2013

On the 4th of December Mothers Union held their final meeting for the year.

It was a time of double celebration as we sang happy birthday to Joslyn, and began preparation for our Lord’s birthday. We continued in enthusiastic style singing a number of Christmas carols.

We were encouraged that during this busy period to set aside time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to continue to be the light in our community.

Finally the Mothers Union wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Blessed and Peaceful New Year.

JG

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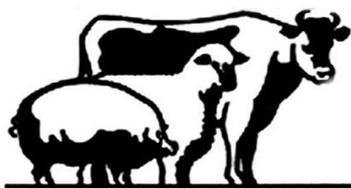
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Will You Remember Them - Lebanon

Lebanon is the only Arab state that is not officially Muslim and has the highest proportion of Christians in its population of any country in the Middle East: around 32%. But this figure reflects a major decline from the 1970s, when Christians comprised a slight majority, emigration prompted by several wars and the small size of Christian families has caused their numbers to fall significantly. Lebanon is one of the most complex countries in the Middle East, its population composed of Christian communities, Sunni Muslims, Twelver Shi'a Muslims, Druze and others. The civil war of 1975-1990 has left an ongoing legacy of struggle for political power along sectarian lines.

The constitution establishes a balance of power among the major religious groups, which is intended to prevent any one group from becoming dominant: the president, prime minister, and the speaker of parliament must be Maronite Christian, Sunni Muslim and Shia Muslim, respectively; Christians and Muslims must be represented equally in parliament, the cabinet and high-level civil service positions. But the Christian influence is weakening as Islam gains strength. Some religious groups, including unregistered Protestant ones, are not officially recognised and consequently do not qualify for certain government positions. But they are allowed to practice their faith freely.

Despite the tensions between the different groups, religious freedom is largely upheld. Unlike in other countries in the Middle East, there are no legal restrictions on evangelism and people are free to change their religion on their identity cards and official registry documents. It is nevertheless very costly for a Muslim to convert to Christianity.

Lebanon remains a place of refuge for those fleeing religious persecution. Christians from Iraq, Egypt, Sudan and more recently Syria have gone to the country to escape discrimination and violence in their homeland. There have been warnings that Lebanon could be dragged into the conflict in Syria, which could then inflame underlying sectarian tensions. Attacks against Christian targets in Lebanon are rare, but sectarian violence is escalating as the Syrian conflict spills over the border. An historic Christian owned library in Tripoli was torched on January 3rd and two thirds of its 80,000 books and manuscripts were destroyed.

Please Pray

- That a desire for peace may be in the hearts and minds of all people in all groups in Lebanon.
- That the needs of those who seek refuge in Lebanon receive the support and help they need.

God's Healing Touch

*'We rejoice with those who rejoice
And weep with those who weep'* (Romans 12:15)

'Is any of you in trouble? Is anyone sick?
He should call the elders of the church to pray over him...'
(James 5:13-14)

Everyone has life experiences which are especially significant to them personally, and which may not necessarily be obvious or known to others.

We can feel all alone at certain times in our lives – children going off to university or leaving home, redundancy, loss of a friend or relative, a decision to be made about moving house or moving jobs or another opportunity that has arisen. It may be that we have received unexpected news, maybe we have the first signs of a serious illness (or even a very nasty cold that we cannot shake off. It could be a landmark birthday or anniversary, the failure of a relationship. Any number of things can cause us to feel that we cannot see a way through the feelings of depression.

When others pray for us in our time of need or in our time of rejoicing it can be a wonderful experience, and help us to find a sense of God's enfolding love and peace. It is always best to offer our feelings and the happenings in our lives to God and we may find it good to share the problem or the joy with others (in confidence) especially if we are struggling to find the right words or sometimes we feel we should be able to deal with the problem ourselves.

When we have something to delight in, others can help us to see that it is a gift from God and then we can rejoice in it all the more. Again when we are suffering grief, others can help us articulate our difficult attempts to pray – when we desperately want to pray but cannot think how or where to begin. Sometimes it takes others to show us how our prayers have been answered.

If you feel that you would like to share your prayer with others, this can be for yourself or for anyone you have a concern for – then we have Healing Services at the following times:

Sundays at 6.30 pm

February 16th, April 20th, June 15th,
September 21st & November 16th

Sundays at 10.00 am

March 16th, May 18th, July 20th
& October 19th

If you prefer prayer at other times please see the Vicar or a member of the Healing Team after any service. The Vicar - The Revd Daniel Hartley - The Healing Team; Jo Hawksworth, Pat Clarke, Jeni Fryer, Stephanie Hartshorne, Pat Hawley, Elaine Holland, Maureen Skayman

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Our Page

St BERNADETTE

In February 1858 Bernadette was 14 years old and lived with her family in the little town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees in France. While she was out collecting wood to keep the family warm Bernadette had a vision of St Mary, the Mother of Christ. The lady in blue and white appeared 18 times in all and asked Bernadette to tell the priests to make a procession to the grotto where she appeared and to build a chapel there. At first the priests didn't believe Bernadette's story because she was only a poor, uneducated girl.

People who were ill came to bathe in the spring of water that appeared at the Grotto and in time a large church was built. And still today pilgrims from all over the world visit the shrine.

What happened to Bernadette? She became a nun. When they asked her if she was sad that the visions had ended she answered: 'I was like a broom. When the sweeping is finished you put it behind the door and forget about it.'

WATER WORDS

All the answers to this Bible Quiz are to do with water. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where the disciples fished (Mark 1).
2. It parted to allow Moses and the Israelites through (Exodus 14).
3. Jacob met his future wife here (Genesis 29).
4. Paul was on his way to Rome when this happened (Acts 27).
5. How Jonah travelled when the sailors threw him overboard (Jonah 1).
6. The river in which Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3).



Why was Moses hidden quickly?
It was a rush job.

What do you call small rivers that flow into the Nile?

Juveniles.



1. Sea of Galilee
2. The Red Sea
3. at a well
4. he was shipwrecked
5. in a large fish or whale
6. River Jordan

Diary for the Month of February 2014

Sunday 2nd

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 12 noon Baptism Service
- 6.30 pm Evening Service
- Monday 3rd 7.30 pm PCC meets in Church
- Tuesday 4th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
- Wednesday 5th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- 1.00 pm MU meets in the Gatty Hall / Kath Rawling – Alzheimer's
- Thursday 6th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group meets in the Gatty Hall / Coffee Evening
- Friday 7th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

Sunday 9th

The Fourth Sunday before Lent

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm Holy Communion
- Tuesday 11th 2.00 pm Service at Hartwell House
- 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
- Wednesday 12th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- Thursday 13th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group meets in the Gatty Hall / AGM
- Friday 14th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

Sunday 16th

The Third Sunday before Lent

- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 4.00 pm Living Stones Service in Church
- 6.30 pm Evening Service
- Monday 17th 7.30 pm Outreach Team meets in Church
- Tuesday 18th 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
- Wednesday 19th 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- Thursday 20th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Prayer Meeting in Church
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group meets in the Gatty Hall / Anne Rostron – Africa Night
- Friday 21st 7.30 pm Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

Sunday 23rd

The Second Sunday before Lent

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm Evening Service

Monday 24 th	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
Tuesday 25 th	7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting in Church
	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 26 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 27 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group meets in the Gatty Hall/ Coffee Evening
	7.30 pm	Finance Team Meeting
Friday 28 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice / Silent Ringing

From the Registers

Baptisms

1 st December	Jake Owen Mitchell
1 st December	Harrison James Morton
1 st December	Phoebe Cate Poulton
29 th December	Phoebe Grace Jennings
5 th January	Megan Celia Louise Smith

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

Weddings

20 th December	Samuel Thomas Brown and Debora Anne Loukes
21 st December	Denver Casper Fairbanks and Beverley Jayne Marsh
27 th December	Daniel James Williams and Jane Elizabeth Molyneux
11 th January	Duncan Lovegrove and Melanie Anne Preston

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

Funerals

23 rd December	Gordon Beetenson	62
28 th December	Susan Elizabeth Irene Pearson	62
6 th January	Doreen Nutbrown	76
9 th January	Douglass Timm	93
14 th January	Christine Ann Lee	69
20th January	Joan Colton	91

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota

2 nd	S. Dale & P. Blackburn
9 th	S. Pratt & K. Bailey
16 th	Vacant
23 rd	C. Wright & S. Johns



The Gardening Year – February 2014.

As February is a quiet month for gardening here is an article on:

‘How to Create a Kitchen Garden’

Anybody can have green fingers it is simply a matter of following straight forward instructions and applying common sense. After all, it is in the natural order of things for seeds to germinate and for seedlings to develop into healthy full grown plants. It maybe a year or two before there are fruit trees to prune or until you get the urge to buy a greenhouse for growing tender crops. In the meantime the main priority is to decide where to grow your fruit trees and vegetable crops and then to set about improving and digging the soil ahead of the fruit sowing and plantings. The rest can follow as the need arises. With careful planning even a small garden can produce an abundance of fruit and vegetables.

The food producing area should however, harmonise with the rest of the garden where children play and the whole family relaxes to enjoy the natural beauty you have helped to create. Therefore when replanting a garden to give it greater emphasis to food growing aim at making a happy marriage between the productive and the leisure areas. Every garden presents problems arising from its shade side or aspect and every garden must make its own choice of things to grow. When planning a new garden or redesigning one that is already established first measure the plot and draw it to scale. If you are re-planning an old garden mark features such as paths and trees that might be incorporated in the new design. Before sketching the design list what you want to fit into the plan: greenhouses, frames, shed, compost bin, herb bed, the number and types of fruit trees and bushes. Next, decide on the area that you are prepared to allow to growing vegetables. Having listed the main items to be included in the garden the next task is to fit them into the most suitable positions you will probably have to amend your original rough sketch plan as you go along.

Vegetables – Reserve an open site with plenty of sun and if possible sheltering walls or fences. Vegetables cannot be grown successfully within the rooting area of trees, or on a site that gets shade for much of the day. **Paths** – Lay paths to such points as the tool shed, greenhouses, compost bin and garden frame. You will appreciate this after heavy rain and when using the wheel barrow. **Fruit** – Make the most of garden space by siting cordons, espaliers or fan trained trees on walls or fences. **Lawn** – In a small garden you may decide to do without a lawn and build a patio as your relaxing area. **Herb Garden** – Ideally plan herbs as be near to the kitchen as possible. **Greenhouses** – Site the greenhouse where light is best all year round. Set cold frames next to the greenhouse to save work when transferring seedlings from the house to the frames. **Compost Bin** – Tuck the bin in a corner but lay an approach path suitable for a barrow. **Shed** – if possible site the shed within handy reach of both the house and greenhouse.

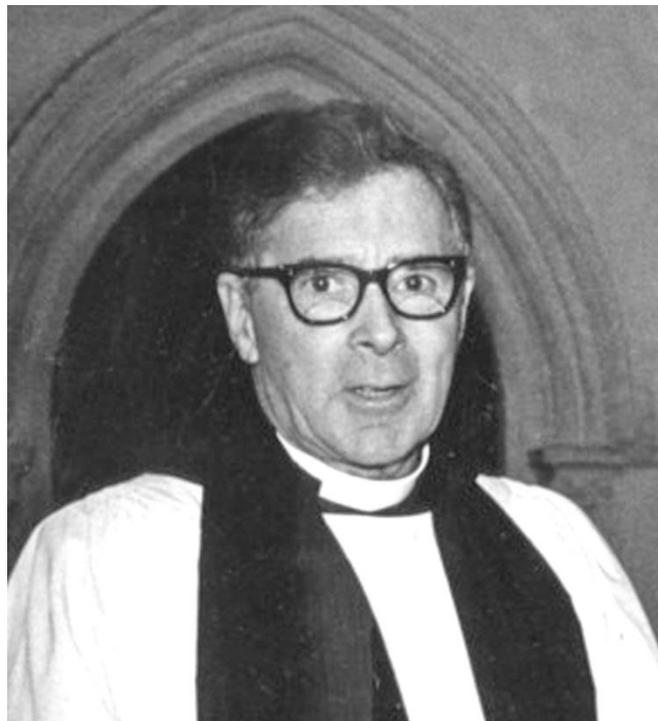
Colin Williams

The Revd. Richard (Dick) Page 1923 – 2013

Dick Page who died on the 13th December 2013 aged 90 was vicar of Ecclesfield for eight years between 1964 and 1972.

Dick and Sue came to Ecclesfield at a most difficult time when the old vicarage was being demolished and plans were in hand for a new modern vicarage. For some time before completion of the new vicarage Dick and Sue lived in Germanic House on the Common opposite Morrisons.

During his time here much work was undertaken in the church The Nave and North Aisle roofs were renewed and new lighting and oil central heating were installed plus a major modernisation of the Gatty Hall.



His work in the Parish and as Rural Dean was greatly appreciated and his work with parishioners showed great tact, wisdom and understanding. During his stay many successful events were held and the music in the church reached a very high standard.

Even with the demands of four young children with their warm personalities and interest in the lives of parishioners Dick and Sue made many friends. Sue is still remembered for her work in forming the Young Mums' Group still running after all these years with many of the original founder members. It has however now been renamed the Ladies' Group!

Dick's funeral and thanksgiving service took place in Reepham Parish Church, Norfolk on 4th January 2014, with the Eulogy being given by the Revd. Tim Leach who had served his first curacy at Ecclesfield with Dick.

On January 12th 2014 the Bell Ringers of Ecclesfield Parish Church rang a Quarter Peal in celebration of Dick's life and ministry here in Ecclesfield.

David Banham

Editor: The photo of the Revd. Richard Page was taken some time between 1971&1985



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Hotpoint

What the 23rd Psalm is really all about

Editor: Here are some modern 'insights' on an age-old Psalm...

The Lord is my Shepherd - *that's relationship.*

I shall not want - *that's supply.*

He makes me lie down in green pastures - *that's rest.*

He leads me beside the still waters - *that's refreshment.*

He restores my soul - *that's healing.*

He leads me in the paths of righteousness - *that's guidance.*

For his name's sake - *that's purpose.*

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - *that's testing.*

I will fear no evil - *that's protection.*

For You are with me - *that's faithfulness.*

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me - *that's discipline.*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies - *that's hope.*

You anoint my head with oil - *that's consecration.*

My cup runs over - *that's abundance.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - *that's blessing.*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever - *that's security!*

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

ACROSS: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN: 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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Pathways

On Tuesday 14th January, Pathways celebrated their 1st anniversary.

A celebration was held where the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries, including Head Teachers were present and Pam Prior & Maureen Lambert were able to present Pat Booth (the Manager of Pathways) with a cheque from St. Mary's Church in the sum of £500.



Maureen Lambert - Pat Booth - Pam Prior

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

Weekly meetings start Wednesday 12 February, at 5.30 pm at the Library. If you're keen to save your local library please come & join in discussion and planning for the future. Keep an eye on

<http://library.ecclesfieldgroups.com>

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Prayers and Poems Page

Love

Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair.

*By William Blake, from Songs of Experience
'The Clod and the Pebble'*

His Glorious Day

He's the Ground of all being,
The Spirit of life,
The Father of faith
And the Mother of love,
He's the Christ-child within
Who fills darkness with light,
He calms our worst fears
With the peace from 'above'!
He's the giver of comfort
When our spirit is low
And source of all courage
When faith calls out – 'Go:
Go tell all the nations
That peace truly comes
When God's voice is heard
And God's will is done.
So follow the Christ-man,
Hold fast on his way,
Then one day we'll all share
His glorious day'!

By Sam Doubtfire

Waiting and Ready (Luke 2:25-35)

Waiting for fulfilment of a promise,
Waiting to see the longed-for light,
Waiting in devotion of a lifetime,
Simeon, trusting God to keep his word.

Ready for the prompting of the Spirit,
Ready for the revelation joy
Mixed with cross-shaped shadows of the
future,
Simeon, holding Mary's God-filled boy.

By Daphne Kitching

As Pants the Deer

As pants the deer for waters clear
So pants my soul for thee -
O living God whom I revere
Dear Lord, draw near to me!

Though men may mock the whole day
long
And cause my tears to flow;
Though they may ask "Where's your god
gone?"
You're here with me, I know.

I used to go up to your house
And join in joyful song,
With praises and with thankful shouts
Among the festive throng.

Be not cast down, O soul of mine
Be not disturbed within,
For God is here, arise and shine
And put your hope in Him!

If you want to sing it, try St Fulbert (Ye
Choirs of New Jerusalem)

By Nigel Beeton

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) **25** How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Clues Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

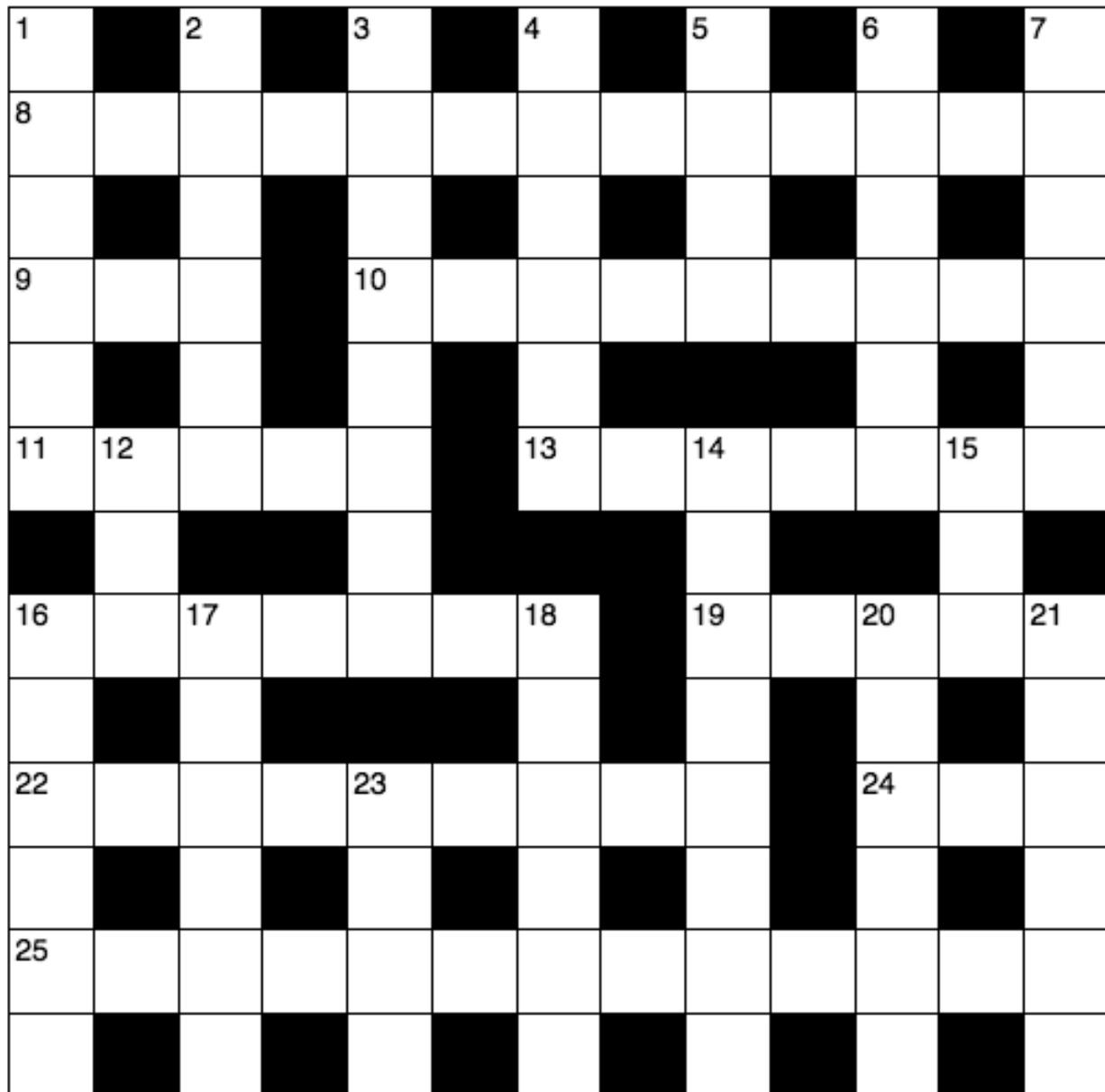
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 21



A light-hearted take on romance...

- 1.** My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met. - Rodney Dangerfield.
- 2.** A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong. - Milton Berle
- 3.** Marriage is the only war where one sleeps with the enemy. - Anon
- 4.** A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: 'Wife wanted'. Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: 'You can have mine.' - Anon

Saint of the Month - Polycarp c. 69 – c.155

Day February 23rd - The faithful servant who would not deny his Lord

Polycarp was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called 'atheists'. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation.

All the pagans' threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: "For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me? I am a Christian: if you wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it."

The crowd were outraged, and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.



In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

Mothers' Union - January

The Mothers' Union meeting in January gave us time to find out more about the Pathways' Project which the Church has supported with money from the Christmas Tree Festival. Joanne and Glenys told us about the day to day work with children excluded from mainstream schools. We learned about the beginning of the work and the worries of working with these difficult children and the constant fund raising efforts. There were joys as children settled and began to benefit from the specialised teaching they receive. Questions time was well used.

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15th January saw over fifty MU members and friends enjoying a post-Christmas lunch at the Garrison Hotel. We had an excellent meal with plenty of food and laughter. The service was good with cheerful and efficient waitresses. Our thanks go to Pam Prior for all her hard work in arranging the meal.

NP



Coffee Shop at St Mary's Church



Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

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Greaves Road Lunch Club

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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 Community Garden
Ecclesfield Park off Mill Lane / Church
Street
For winter opening times please phone
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
John Otter Tel. 0114 246 1752

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Christmas Tree Festival

The Festival was a great success and the Church looked beautiful with 19 decorated Christmas trees on display. The winner of the vote for “Favourite Tree”, was the one decorated by St. Mary’s Church Music Group (see photo below). The winners of the raffles were Mrs Pat Booth (Pathways) on the Friday and Mrs Jennifer Cooper on the Saturday. Thank you to everyone who came to support this event.

