

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for February 2015

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First Words...

- **Lent 2015** – Lent begins on 18th February. 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
- **Lent Reflections** - On Wednesday evenings in Lent, at 7.30 pm, we will be holding a series of Lent Reflections. Each Reflection will include hymns and music. This year's theme will be "Growth in All its Aspects" and I will share with you my final reflections on the future of the Church of England before I move to Devon. It will be a time to reflect on all that God is doing in Ecclesfield and what God might be calling you to do in the future.

Daniel Hartley



Prayer for Month

A Prayer for Lent

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Front Cover – Consecration of Church of England's first female bishop Rev Libby Lane at York Minster
Back Cover – MU Coffee Morning & EPPiC Posters

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The Vicars' Letter - The Changing Church

There can be little doubt that the next few years will be a time of great change for the Church of England. In many places the Church continues to face numerical and financial decline. Many congregations (and clergy!) are ageing and the current situation has been described as a “ticking time bomb”. Bishops and senior Church leaders are proposing changes that, guided by God’s presence, will better equip the Church of England for its 21st Century mission and ministry.

Many of us welcome the Church’s realisation that things need to change, but change also brings challenges and uncertainties. Those of us who go to Church now wonder if the Church of the future will still value us. We worry that the Church may no longer nurture and cherish the values that we nurture and cherish. It is true that, at times, the Church of England can appear to adopt an “everything must change” approach. The end of traditional Sunday morning Church. The end of robed choirs and traditional hymns. The end of the Parish system. Some in the Church would like to “wipe the slate clean” and start again. For me, this is a nonsense. I passionately believe in what is described as a “mixed economy” Church. A Church that values received and traditional models of being church and also values new and exciting models of being church.

You’d expect me to say this as I’m a Vicar. I’m called to nurture and value God’s active presence wherever I find it and I certainly find it in many different ways of being church. But what I am about to say is more of “nailing my colours to the mast” moment. On reflection I believe that the Church of England may be overlooking the potential of traditional models of being church when it comes to delivering growth and sustainability in the 21st Century. In other words I think that we can too easily talk of church plants and fresh expressions (both of which I support) rather than attending to God’s presence in the existing Church communities that we participate in. Or, put in even simpler terms, there’s life in the old dog yet!

Local churches are being challenged to look at numerical and spiritual growth and to look at what God is doing in their midst. They are being challenged to harness the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This will involve new and exciting ventures, but it will also involve a confident sharing of what God is doing now. If Sunday morning congregations are dwindling then I would suggest people need help and support to recover a confidence in God’s active presence.

The challenge of a changing Church is to see the future of the Church growing out of its past and its present. It is to value what God has done in the past, is doing in the present and will do in the future. We are not starting again and everything does not need to change. Some things will change and some things will stay the same but, above all else, there will be a place for all in the future mission and ministry of the Church in this land.

Daniel Hartley

On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were he to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I moved on to ask him about the Sunday Services he attended and was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Statement on behalf of the PCC.

As nearly everyone is aware, Daniel will be leaving shortly after Easter to continue his ministry in Devon and this church will be entering a period without a vicar (known formally as an interregnum).

The churchwardens recently had a meeting with the Archdeacon, Malcolm Chamberlain, to discuss what happens next.

The headline is to tell you that, as in previous times when our vicar has moved on, the formal process to decide what happens next does not start until the position is vacant. It is likely that it will be at least 6 months before a new person is installed so we may or may not have someone new in post by Christmas 2015.

We also need to be bear in mind that the church no longer allocates a full time stipendiary vicar to every parish, partly for financial reasons and partly because there are insufficient priests. Many churches are now sharing one priest between two or more parishes, or having a non-stipendiary member of the clergy as a part-time leader. We won't know until April or May what is planned for Ecclesfield – whether we will need to share a vicar or whether we will be allowed to have a full-time replacement.

But, very importantly, we do now have a planning process to start. We need to discuss how we want the church in Ecclesfield to develop and grow, what we would want a new vicar to do, what type of person we would like. These requirements will be captured in a number of documents by the PCC which has quite a lot of work to do over the next few months.

How can you help?

We want this to be an inclusive process and want to canvass the congregation's views about how you see the future – what you would like to change about the church, how you think we should move forward and what you see as important about the new vicar – what the key roles should be and what sort of person you would prefer. We will, in the next month or so, be arranging a meeting in order to provide a forum for your views. More information will follow shortly.

An interregnum is a time when we need to do more ourselves and a time to use our own resources as people – we will need help during the interregnum so please be thinking praying about whether there are there ways you could help with the running of the church.

One or two people have asked if they can be more involved in the appointment process even though they are not on the PCC. The appointment process is the responsibility of the PCC.

PCC members are elected by you as your representatives to run the church and make decisions. With Daniel leaving in April, we have decided that the AGM this year will be early, on 22nd March. If you want to be more involved, please consider standing as a PCC member at the AGM.

Please pray about the church in Ecclesfield, that we will be open to God and He will help the right decisions to be made for our future and the right person to be appointed as our spiritual leader.

We will keep you informed of progress when there is something new to share.

Message from the Mission Team

We must remember, nothing will be lost from church, except Daniel's presence of course. God isn't leaving with him! God is going with him by His spirit, but He will be staying here with us too.

The church will continue, everything will be normal, held by the churchwardens, ministry team, PCC and you. God will continue to lead us forward. There will even be new initiatives – watch this space!



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Bishop's Letter - February 2015

This month, Bishop Steven has asked Peter Bradley, the Dean of Sheffield, to write the letter as he has a very special announcement:

2015 is proving to be a very special year for the Diocese. On 20 January, it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen will be visiting the Cathedral to celebrate the Royal Maundy on Maundy Thursday 2 April.

The Royal Maundy is the annual commemoration by the Monarch of the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus. During the service, the Queen will

distribute specially minted Maundy money to 178 recipients aged over 70, 89 men and 89 women—a man and a woman for each year of her life. Each recipient will receive two gifts of money, one of which is £0.89 in the coins in a small leather pouch. This includes a 3 pence piece—which is legal tender!

The service takes its name from “mandatum,” a Latin word meaning “a commandment,” and its opening words are from John 13.34, “Jesus said, ‘I give you a new commandment’.” The service includes the famous anthem by Handel which is also sung at coronations, “Zadok the Priest.”

The Queen herself has approved the names of those who will be honoured by receiving the Maundy money, aided by an independent local committee of Deputy Lord Lieutenants. The recipients will be chosen because of their Christian service of the community and the Church. We understand that the Queen particularly values this service as it is a precious opportunity for her to mark explicitly the part that Christians play in our community life.

Nominations have been received from throughout the Diocese, from Area Deans, Canons and our ecumenical brothers and sisters. We received many, many more nominations than the 178 required, and a group of Deputy Lord Lieutenants carefully reviewed them all, and chose names to represent as far as possible almost every community in the Diocese.

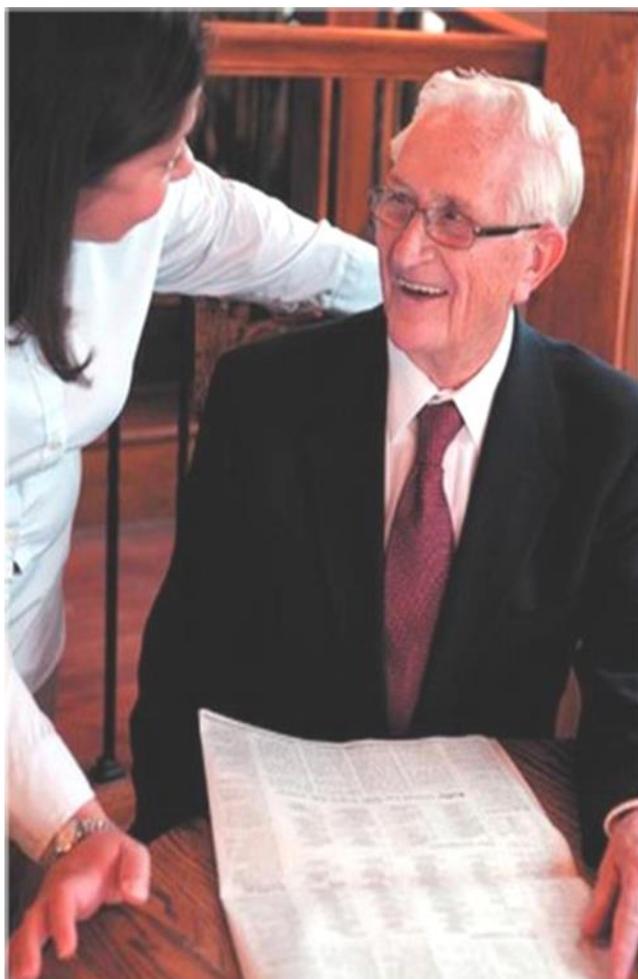


All who took part in this exercise have said how moving it is to discover how Christians have been at the heart of community service throughout South Yorkshire, sustaining our common life as part of our Christian vocation.

The Royal Maundy will be a true thanksgiving for the service of these 178 Christians, and of the whole Diocese. We know that we are all called to be salt and light. How good it is to give thanks to God for those who are serving our communities in Christ's name!

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5.16, NIV)

*The Very Reverend Peter Bradley
Dean of Sheffield Cathedral*



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Will You Remember Them - World Watch List 2015

Open Doors launch 2015 World Watch List Islamic extremism threatens Middle East Christians

As the Western world reels from the Islamist attacks in Paris recently, our World Watch List, (i.e. The 50 most difficult countries in which to be a Christian) reveals that Islamic extremism has been devastating for Christians around the world in the past year – it's a major factor for 18 out of the top 20 countries.

The Middle East is a region of particular concern, with Iraq and Syria taking positions 3 and 4 following the rise of Islamic State. Only 300,000 Christians are left in Iraq, down from 1.2 million in 1990. Over 700,000 Christians have left Syria since the conflict broke out in 2011; 200,000 Christians fled the country in 2014 alone.

Lisa Pearce, CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland, visited an Iraqi refugee camp in November, where one desperate mother told her: "I haven't seen my daughter since IS took her. I cried and shouted at them -- what could they want with a three year old? She's just a child".

Defining Moment...Beyond the Middle East, one of the biggest trends is the rise in persecution in countries where it has not historically been an issue – in parts of Asia, Latin America, and especially sub-Saharan Africa.

Even Christian majority states are experiencing unprecedented levels of exclusion, discrimination and violence; Nigeria has moved up from number 14 to number 10, and Kenya is the highest climbing country on the entire list, at number 19. "I am convinced that what happens in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa in the next three years will define the future of Christianity as we know it. We can't afford to sleep-walk through critical days," says Lisa. "The church is experiencing persecution on an unprecedented scale. Time is running out."

Please Pray:

- For comfort for all who suffer at the hands of Islamic extremism, including the thousands of refugees who are suffering through the winter in Syria and Iraq
- For an end to violence in Nigeria and Kenya, and protection for Christians there
- For wisdom for the international community as they attempt to tackle Islamic extremism in its various forms, and engage with the issue of religious freedom.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33b

JD



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Mothers' Union

We began the New Year by inviting the local Keep Fit tutor, Joy Turnbull, to put us through our paces. This seemed rather brave but we were assured it would be armchair exercises. It was, and everyone joined in at some level. We were encouraged to do the exercises at home sitting in our chairs. Memories also need exercising but we were told to do any we could remember every-day and we would finish up in the top 10% of the nation taking some form of exercise.

Joy made it all such fun and quite easy so, hopefully one of our New Year resolutions should be "move" don't just sit there. There are local classes so do ask any member of the Mothers' Union for details, see you there.

NP



70th Anniversary of Ecclesfield Soldier's Death

On 28th February, it will be the 70th anniversary of the death of Ecclesfield chorister and crucifer Donald Alwyne Senior. His name may not be familiar, but for those interested to look, it is inscribed on the war memorial in St. Mary's churchyard. A staff, dedicated to his memory, was donated to the church by his family. These days, it can be found mounted securely on the wall opposite the doorway of the choir vestry. For many years, the verger would use it in the course of his or her duties.

Donald Alwyne was the son of Samuel and Ida Senior of Ecclesfield. At the time of his death, in February 1945, he was serving as a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion, part of the 3rd British Infantry Division, had taken part in D-Day, landing on Sword Beach. Throughout the summer of 1944 they fought in the Battle of Normandy, and by the end of it, the Battalion's ranks were depleted. Drafts of young soldiers from various British regiments were brought in. The Battalion entered the newly liberated Netherlands and, after a number of skirmishes, took up positions defending the River Maas in November 1944.

The Battalion entered Germany on 25th February 1945; a cold, snowy day. The Division had been given objectives to clear the approach to the Rhine. On 27th February, the 2nd East Yorkshires were tasked with securing a bridge over a tributary of the Niers River, in the wooded area east of the town of Weeze. They were closely supported by the tanks of the 6th Guard Tank Brigade. Opposing them were the soldiers of the 8th German Parachute Division. The Germans, although taken by surprise, responded to the attack more quickly than expected, opening fire and causing many casualties. However, the bridge was captured before the Germans could detonate it and the British soldiers dug in to defend their positions.

During the night, the Germans counter-attacked many times, their paras advancing behind tanks and assault guns. The situation looked grave for the East Yorkshires, as their own armoured vehicles had retired to the rear lines. As the night wore on, they also started to run low on ammunition. At dawn, Major King of 'B' Company broke through with additional supplies. The men were able to hold their positions, assisted by artillery fire and reinforcements. The cost had been high, however: nearly a quarter of the 2nd East Yorkshire Battalion had been killed, wounded or were missing. In recognition of the bravery shown, the East Yorkshire Regiment earned the battle honour "Schaddenhof" and the captured bridge was renamed "Yorkshire Bridge".

Donald Alwyne Senior was only 23 years old when he died. A note found on some private research papers, held by the Sheffield Local Studies Library, claims that he was accidentally run over by a British tank, but the source of this information is unknown and unverified. He is buried in Uden War Cemetery, which is the final resting place of 701 British and Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. The town of Uden is situated between Nijmegen and Eindhoven in The Netherlands.

Perhaps there are friends or relatives of Donald reading this article, who might have more information they would like to share about him?

Yvonne Ridgeway

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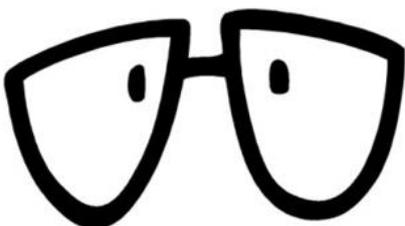


SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught with parables, stories that explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeing, and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with 'new eyes'.



SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

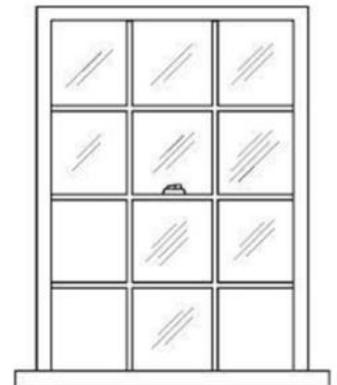
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S	C	O	O	S	T	G	G	R	W
A	H	L	O	I	U	O	G	E	E
G	A	M	E	N	E	U	G	O	V

* clock * eyes * game * glasses * goggles * lens * picture * scene * spectacles * television * video * view * watch



What gadget do we use to see through a wall?

A window.



Optician: What can you see out of the window?

Patient: Only the sun.

Optician: How far do you want to see, then?

Optician: You need glasses.

Patient: But I'm wearing glasses.

Optician: Then I need glasses.

Diary for the Month of February

Sunday 1st

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Baptism Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 2 nd	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 4 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	MU in the Gatty Hall - Nicky Lee - Radiotherapy
Thursday 5 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group - AGM
Friday 6 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)

Sunday 8th

The Second Sunday before Lent

	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Service of the Word
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Tuesday 10 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 11 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
Thursday 12 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	Service at Hartwell House
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group /Janet Stein "Dip your toe in"
Friday 13 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)

Sunday 15th

The Sunday next before Lent

	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 17 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 18 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday 19 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting in Church
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening
Friday 20 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)

Sunday 22nd

The First Sunday of Lent

	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Service

Monday 23 rd	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
	7.30 pm	Outreach Team meet in Church
Tuesday 24 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesday 25 th	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm	Lent Reflection
Thursday 26 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Finance Team meet in Church
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group – Yvonne “My Travels”
Friday 27 th	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice (Silent Ringing)

From the Registers

Baptisms

7 th December	Darcey Lilia Robertson
7 th December	Ella Grace Quince-Holt
7 th December	Ruby Isabella Higgins
4 th January	Abby Grace Johnson
4 th January	Millie Harvey
4 th January	Leo Stanley Marsh

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

Weddings

22 nd November	Stephen Harold Robinson & Sharron Margaret Ingram
28 th December	Paul Michael Allison & Georgina Laura Jane Webster

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

Funerals

16 th December	Dorothy Lacy	
26 th January	Mary Hall	93

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

Flower Rota February 2015

1 st	S. Dale & P. Blackburn	15 th	C. Wright & S. Johns
8 th	S. Pratt & K. Bailey	22 nd	Lent –No Flowers

The Gardening Year – February 2015

Although it seems like yesterday I have been writing the Gardening Year since 1985 for the Parish Magazine. Since my retirement in 2007 to Mablethorpe I created a large garden on spare land at a small village called Farlesthorpe near Alford. It has taken me seven years to get this garden to perfection with a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for £10,000 for a very large polytunnel. The tunnel was erected in 2010. I also have five greenhouses on the garden which are always full. The Polytunnel holds 16 raised beds with a two foot border round every one so handy for people in wheel chairs to get round them. I also have Work Experience boys and girls from schools to teach them about gardening. Every Monday I have two vulnerable adults to work with me who I pick up from their home in Alford. All the vegetables grown are sold to people who visit the garden daily this money goes to the upkeep of the garden which runs into several hundreds of pounds a year. All the work is voluntary and I work on the garden six days a week with Sunday off to recover. I also support local flower and vegetable shows such as Alford show, Busby, Sutton-on-sea and Louth shows. Anyone who would like to visit the garden can do so with pleasure the Address is: Burgh Angling Society, Dales Pitt, Brick Yard Lane, Farlesthorpe.

February Work – little garden planting can be done in February so now is the time to prepare the soil for planting next month. Prepare the soil by adding manure or compost, also fertiliser. If you would like to be organic use fish blood and bone fertiliser use these at the rate of 4oz. per sq. yd. Put the fertiliser on the garden in mid-February dig in and rake level until you plant in March.

The main fertilisers to use are:

Nitrogen - This promotes above ground growth and dark green foliage beneficial for all greens.

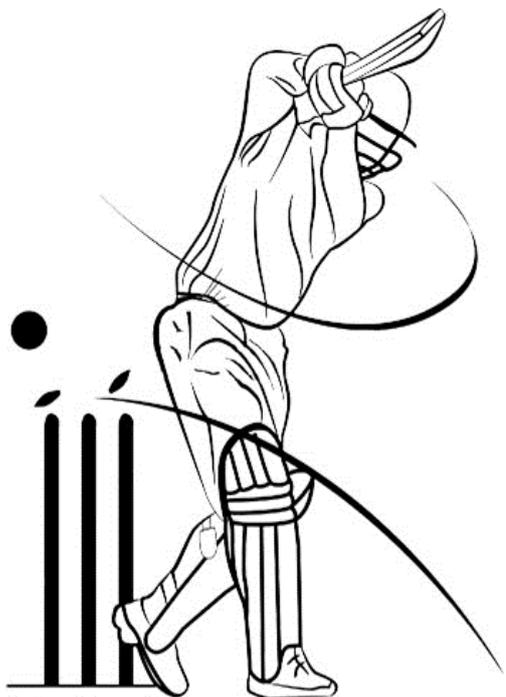
Phosphate - this substance is essential for the development of roots it also encourages maturity and ripening of fruits.

Potash – this nutrient is essential for the production of flowers and is of particular value to plants grown for their fruiting qualities.

Lime – although calcium the chief chemical of lime is an essential plant food, the main importance of lime is as a soil conditioner. The most important effect of lime however, is its ability to neutralise soil acidity and turn acid soils alkaline. Most plants react unfavourably to excessive acid soil: brassicas grown on sour soil are liable to attack by club root fungus. If not already done it is not too late to apply lime at the rate of 6oz. per sq. yd.

Colin Williams

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



We are not proposing to play cricket in February but there are three notices in advance of the coming season. Whitley Hall operate three senior teams and junior teams at under 11, 13, 15 and 17. Following another successful season and, looking to 2015, we are looking for:-

Under 13 team

The club is looking for young cricketers to join the under 13 side. You need to be under 13 at the beginning of September 2014 to qualify.

Junior Players

Courses for beginners aged 9 – 12 will commence again in the Spring on Thursday evenings. We believe that there may be many young people (boys and girls welcome), who would love to have a try – if you come along, we will teach you all the basics. A small charge will be made.

Umpires required

If you used to play cricket or have always fancied being an umpire, we are looking for one or two club umpires for our team matches. Full professional training is provided at no cost to you and there is a payment for each match umpired.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Steve Fletcher.

Contacts:

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Andrew Robinson, Publicity and Fundraising: 0114 246 3646

Website: <http://www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk>

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Quotes - With Valentine's Day in mind...

- Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - *Anon*
- Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - *Helen Rowland*
- What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - *William M Thackeray*
- Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. - *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*
- Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, Love, thou art every day my Valentine! - *Thomas Hood*
- A woman is a man's solace, but if it wasn't for her, he probably wouldn't need any solace. - *P Burns*
- Two heads are better than one. - *Homer (Illiad)*
- The heart has its reason, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances. - *Blaise Pascal*

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

O		H		I		E		O		O		A
C	R	O	S	S	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D
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Sheffield Cathedral Archer Project

A few weeks before Christmas, I was privileged to attend the Archer Project's annual Carol Service at Sheffield Cathedral. The service started slightly late due to a fire alarm, a good reminder that it is a living, working building – I think someone had burnt the toast!!!

This service was special as it celebrated 25 years of the Archer Project. The preacher was Bishop John Gladwin, who was the Provost of Sheffield Cathedral when the Archer Project began.

It was a very moving service, as 25 stories were told of people who have successfully and unsuccessfully used the project to build a better life and remember some who are no longer with us. These stories were short and each one told by a different person, some by staff, some by volunteers and others by clients of the project, after each one a candle was lit for the person remembered in the story. One story read by a client, talked about someone who had been successfully helped by the project, and it ended with the triumphant words 'he smashed it'. It seemed to me that was a spontaneous response to the story and real inspiration about the transforming love of Christ.

Bishop Gladwin in his address talked about the challenge – how God seeks to bring His kingdom to ordinary people on the margins of society. He talked about how the clients enrich the cathedral's life not necessarily the other way round. The project offers shelter and hope but unfortunately the gap between rich and poor is wider than ever.

He said the project was the most important work of the cathedral – the broken body of Christ, the broken bodies of people. The broken body of Christ given for the world found in the lives of people on the margins.

It is great to know that here at St Mary's we assist with feeding the clients of the project at Harvest time, but there is so much more being done to transform people's lives.

Katharine Lonsborough

Editor: The Cathedral Archer Project (CAP) is a day centre that supports the homeless and vulnerable in Sheffield. To quote a client "If I hadn't started coming here, I'd be on the streets, dead or locked up."

To learn more visit: - www.archerproject.org.uk/about.php

Or to donate: - www.archerproject.org.uk/donate.php



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Crossword Puzzle (Solution is on page 21)

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)

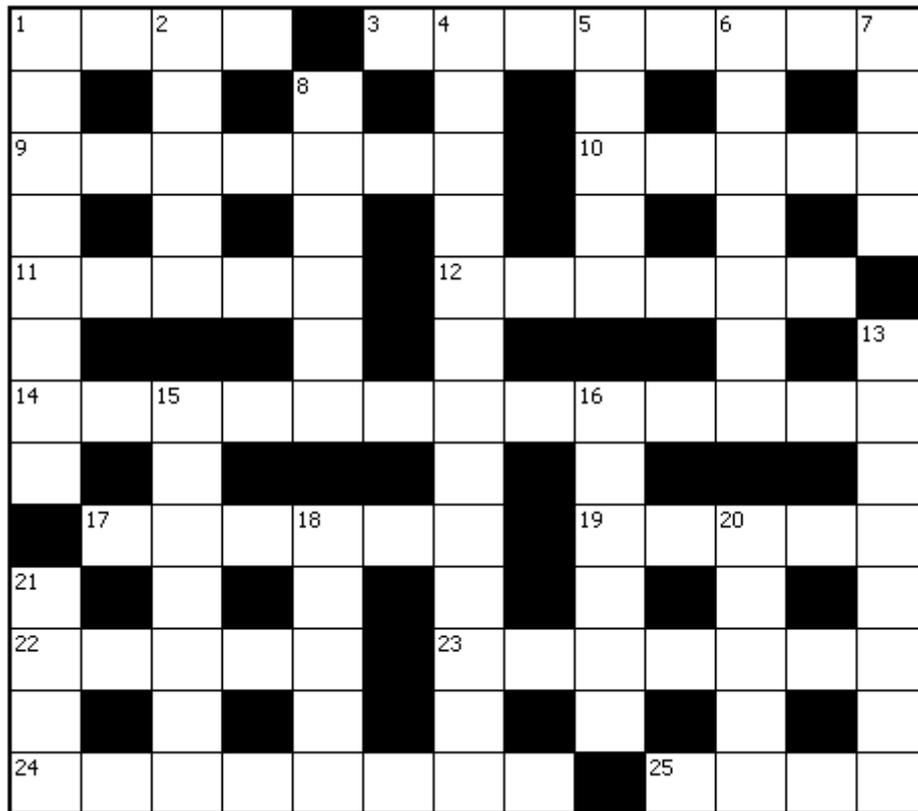
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

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)



Observations on our life and faith...

- The 'heart' in the biblical sense is not the inward life, but the whole man in relation to God. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it. - *Martin Luther King*
- Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction. - *Erich Fromm*
- We are always glad when a great man reassures us of his humanity by possessing a few peculiarities. - *Andre Maurois*
- Whenever you read the Gospel, Christ himself is speaking to you. And while you read you are praying and talking to him. - *St Tikhon of Zadonsk*

Prayers and Poems Page

Traffic Lights

It fills me with dread
It makes me irate
That lights are all red
When I'm running late!

But when I'm on time
(You'll know what I mean)
The journey is fine!
The lights are all green!

By Nigel Beeton

O Come All You that Love the Lord

O come, all you that love the Lord
And praise Him to the height
O praise Him for His powerful word
O praise His acts of might!

With trumpet sound, with harp and string
With tambourine and song,
With flutes and cymbals as we sing
We'll praise Him all day long!

If you have breath within your chest
If you have life, then sing!
O praise Him for he gives the best
Praise God for everything!

By Nigel Beeton

Meeting

(Lk2:25-32)

Filled with the Spirit,
led by the Spirit,
expecting to see God's promise fulfilled,
Simeon was in the right place
at the right time.
And Simeon met Jesus.

And that meeting was everything.
Simeon's life completed,
no matter how many more years he lived.
Holding Jesus close,
he knew the peace and light of salvation,
and Simeon praised God.

Lord, fill us with your Spirit,
lead us to a place of meeting your Son,
of holding him close,
of experiencing his reality.
May we live and die
secure in his peace and light,
witnesses to Jesus
and praising your name.

by Daphne Kitching

Clutter

My room is full of clutter
And so much like my life
As they're both packed full of memories
Made special with my wife.
They fill the shelves and cupboards -
And make it hard to dust -
And if one gets moved just
Half-an-inch, the mark that's left is
Just like a friend
Who's there - then gone -
To remind us of life's race
Which always is best run
With the help of God's own grace
Now seen in the Man in everyone
Who carries us along
That we might cross the finishing line
To hear God say, 'Well done'!

By Sam Doubtfire

Saint of the Month - Margaret of Cortona c. 1247-97

22nd of February - Sad search for acceptance and love

Did you have a miserable childhood? Were your parents more absorbed in themselves than in you? Later, looking for love, did you fall for the wrong man? Perhaps you now have children of your own, and struggle to raise them. If you feel your life has been 'wrong-footed' from the start, and that there is no way of 'putting it right' now, then Margaret of Cortona is a saint for you.

She was born the daughter of a small farmer in Tuscany way back in 1247. Her mother died in her childhood, and a jealous step-mother moved in, who distanced her from her father's love. Lonely and vulnerable, Margaret was then seduced by a knight of Montepulciano. He did not offer marriage, and so she lived as his mistress for nine years, hanging on to the only affection she had ever known. She even bore him a son. Then one day her knight was murdered by persons unknown. Margaret's life was in crisis.

What happened next seems to indicate that Margaret was desperate to 'put her life right', in the only way she knew how. She gave away the riches that the knight had left her, and returned to her father and step-mother, humbly seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. They, who had let her down in the first place, slammed the door in her face. Margaret then sought out the Franciscans, and became a penitent. She was desperate for kindness, forgiveness and peace in her sad life.

What happened next is a tragic example of how the church can let people down. For when Margaret turned to the Franciscans in repentance, they did not tell her the wonderful news: that indeed she could be forgiven, because Jesus had already paid the price to 'redeem' her. Instead, they told her a lie: that she would have to 'earn' forgiveness by on-going acts of abasement and severe mortifications. She was never told the simple truth: that God loved her, and lavished forgiveness on her.

And so the final tragedy of Margaret's life began: for years and years she practised severe acts of self-abasement: starvation, sleeplessness, the daily torment of hair-shirts. She was never told that all this was pointless, that her sins were gladly forgiven her because Jesus had died for them on the cross.

There is nothing so broken in our lives that almighty God cannot fix it. At whatever point we turn to him, he accepts us just as we are. Forgiveness is just the beginning of the good things that God wants to give us. He wants to begin a life-long work of restoration and healing in our lives.

Poor Margaret never found that out in this life. So she must have had the most wonderful, almighty surprise when at 50 she died, and woke up in heaven.

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 5.30 pm to 6.45 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
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between
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Tel: 0114 245 0200
email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.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

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
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Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 246 4714
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Useful Contacts



<u>Vicar</u>	Revd. Daniel Hartley	257 0002
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mrs Irene Proctor	246 0373
	Mr Tommy Proctor	246 0373
	Mr Andrew Robinson	246 3646
	Mr Michael Waldron	246 3091
<u>Readers:</u>	Mrs Pat Clarke	257 7191
	Mrs Stephanie Dale	245 2392
<u>Pastoral Workers:</u>	Mrs Pat Wood	246 5086
<u>Church Office:</u>		
Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am		
Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm		245 0106
Church Choir Practice in Church		
Friday 7:30 pm - Contact: Don Knott		246 8430
Music Group Practice in Church		
Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker		246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall		
1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm		
Contact: Maureen Lambert		246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group in Gatty Hall		
Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron		245 5492
Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry		
Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst		286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings,		
Contact: Mrs Margaret Roberts		246 3993
Baptisms: Contact – Revd. Daniel Hartley		257 0002
Weddings: Contact - Revd. Daniel Hartley		257 0002
Vicar's e-mail: <i>vicar.ecclesfield@gmail.com</i>		
Office e-mail <i>office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com</i>		
Magazine e-mail <i>magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com</i>		

Make a Mother's Day

Sunday 15th March 2015

“Coffee Morning”

In Ecclesfield St. Mary's Church

Saturday 7th March 2014

10.00am – 12.30pm

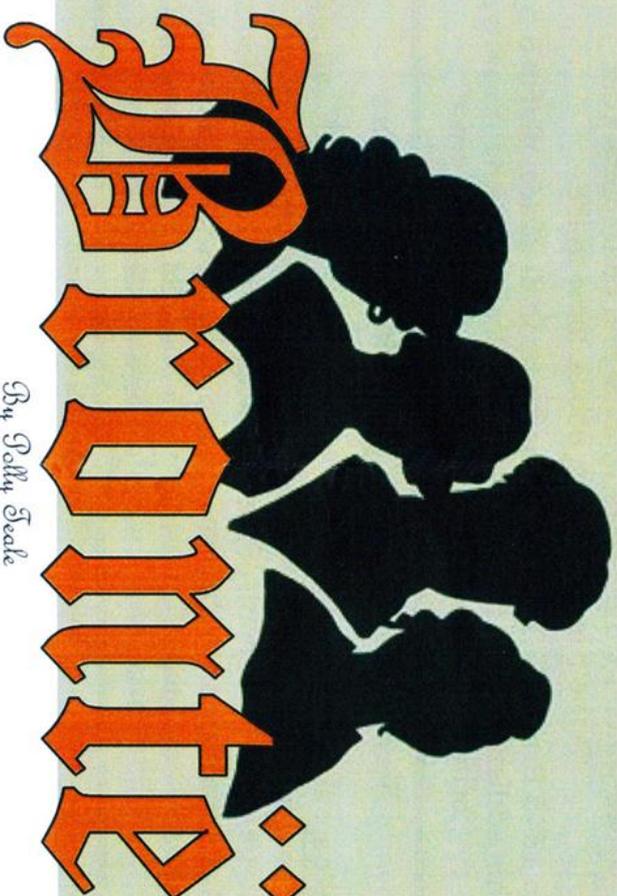
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Mothering Sunday Service Sunday 15th March
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