

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine for February 2016

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

Price 60p

First Words...

- **Ash Wednesday Service.** There will be a service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's on Ash Wednesday, 10th February at 7.30pm, to mark the beginning of Lent.
- **Lent Evenings.** Each Wednesday during Lent we will meet together in church for a short time of worship and reflection, beginning on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome.
- **Lent Lunches** will be available on Fridays in church, after Coffee Shop, beginning on 19th February. Please come and join us for a lunch of soup, and a drink and cake if you wish! All proceeds will go to Christian Aid.
- **Ignatian Evening.** This will be on 22nd February at 7.30pm in church.

Please continue to pray for all at St. Mary's as we continue in interregnum.

Stephanie Dale



Prayer for the month

A Prayer for the season of Lent

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Front Cover – The Common Snowdrop - *Galanthus nivalis* - Wikipedia

Back Cover – Lent Lunches Poster

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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

Thought for the month

Our Christmas preparations and celebrations are now a memory, but last December and early January brought more than the joy of Christmas. Many could not enjoy the season at all because of the floods in and around their homes, and even worse the man-made horrors and disasters that continue abroad.

Even without these terrible onslaughts the winter can seem long and arduous, but now at least we can begin to feel the changes in the gradual lengthening of daylight hours as we approach the season of Lent.

Lent means lengthen. Lent is the period of 40 days in the Christian calendar before Easter. 40 days because of the 40 days when Christ went into the wilderness to prepare for his ministry, and was tempted by Satan. Lent is still marked by some with fasting and by many as a season of reflection and preparation before we celebrate Easter. The 40 days excludes Sundays and follows Shrove Tuesday, (pancake day), when traditionally we can have a feast to use up all the richer foodstuffs, the fats – hence ‘Mardi Gras’, (Fat Tuesday)!

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which is on 10th February this year, that’s the 7th Wednesday before Easter. It is traditionally when Christians enter a period of penance and self-control. Lent was a season that all Christian people recognised and did something about, but today it is not so easily acknowledged, and often ignored. On Ash Wednesday in church we will join together in a service to begin this season of Lent, and ashes mixed with oil will be used to mark the sign of the cross on our foreheads. The ashes are the burnt remains of last year’s Palm crosses and are symbolic to mark our penitence and mortality.

Lent is not about anything extraordinary, indeed it is about our being ordinary. It is a time for self-appraisal, a healthy realisation about ourselves. It’s about making a fresh start, about trying again with sincerity, about facing the challenges of our Christian lives. It’s about being honest and dependable, loving and giving, in fact being Christ-like. It’s about connecting with others and especially about getting closer to God.

To do these things Lent may mean we take a good look at ourselves and see if we need to address any issues and make any changes. Most of us consider giving up excesses during Lent - like chocolate, biscuits or cake, those extras we indulge in but don’t really need, and that is a part of Lent but I’d like to encourage not only ‘giving-up’ something, but actually just ‘giving’ something, and taking on once again a deeper commitment to Christian principles.

Many people, even today, have nothing they can give because they themselves haven’t enough, they go hungry. Christ suffered and died for justice on earth, and in Lent we focus on who we follow and why we follow him. May I suggest this Lent we

find something we can spare and give it up lovingly to those who have nothing to spare.

The prophet Isaiah wrote almost 3000 years ago,

‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen.....to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter’. (Isaiah 58:6-7), and Jesus identified with the needy when he said,

‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in’. (Matthew 25:35).

Remembering Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness as he prepared for his ministry, may we in this season of lent focus on the state of our world, where good and evil continue to face each other, and let us pray for discernment to know what is right, and the courage to do what is right, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Stephanie Dale



A Special Report on The Children’s Society at St. Mary’s

2015 has been a very good year in Ecclesfield; people have helped enormously through filing their boxes, supporting our Coffee Morning not forgetting the special Christingle Service before Christmas. This has helped us to raise more than £1800 a wonderful effort this year.

The Children’s Society sent us this letter for all box holders:-

“Thank you so much for changing children’s lives through your house box collections. Everyone at your Box Network deserves a huge thank you for faithfully collecting throughout the year. In fact it is thanks to supporters like you that we have been able to extend our work to teenagers who are at risk of abuse, a child’s teenage years are often when they are most vulnerable and many turn to the Children’s Society when they have nowhere else to go.”

In December our Christingle team made 164 Christingle Oranges for the Annual Service which raised £331.57p for the Society a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Pat Blackburn

On the art of drinking well

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college - although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day - but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest.

Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable - provided, of course, that it is china. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. Fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by tea time.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry - dry, naturally - is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never drunk in someone's house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

However an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice - which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway - or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the vergier.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Bishop's Letter

Posted by Bishop Steven Croft on 12th January 2016

David Bowie, Lazarus and resurrection

Along with thousands of others around the world I was moved yesterday by the news of death of David Bowie. My condolences and prayers go to his family and his close friends.



As many others have said, his songs are part of the soundtrack of my life and my generation, especially those from the 1970's and 1980's. I was 15 when Ziggy Stardust was released: the Jean Genie, Rebel Rebel, Suffragette City, Life on Mars, Drive in Saturday and many others run around in my mind without invitation.

The many tributes in the media yesterday helped me to realize the breadth and power of Bowie's contribution to the world. He helped us grapple with the mysteries of life and love and joy.

I was drawn by, Lazarus, the title of the song he released on Friday. It's not the first time that death has featured in his songs. One of the things which makes Space Oddity a great song is what happens to Major Tom. Ashes to Ashes takes its title from the funeral service. Ziggy Stardust ends with death as a consequence of fame: "When the kids had killed the man I had to break up the band".

But Lazarus is different. Tony Visconti describes the Blackstar album as a parting gift. The song's theme is death and dying. I hear it first as a reminder to everyone of mortality. Death is one of the last great taboos of the modern age. Hundreds of years ago, people would keep a human skull in the hearth to remind them of the precious gift of life and the reality of death. Lazarus is David Bowie's *momento mori*: a reminder that we will all die.

The song and the film are about wrestling and struggling with death: a raging against the dying of the light. Bowie seems to be reaching out for something beyond but not quite able to grasp it. "Look up here I'm in heaven" he begins. "I'm so high it makes my brain whirl". In one scene we see him dancing, celebrating still the joy of life on the threshold of eternity.

Lazarus reminds me of the frustration with death in the Old Testament. This life is so good and textured. Surely there is something more. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the shroud of death cast over all peoples. Ecclesiastes talks about God putting a sense of eternity into human minds – we reach for something but can't grasp it.

In the video, David Bowie seems to be reaching out for life on the very threshold of death. Lazarus is the name of a man in the Gospel of John. He dies in the prime of life. Then he is set free by Jesus when he has been in the tomb for three days.

In John's gospel the raising of Lazarus is part of a bigger and greater story: the story of the gift of Jesus Christ to the world to bring life. Jesus died but he was raised from death on the third day. In Christ, God offers resurrection, a new beginning and new life to everyone.

I hope that this David Bowie's final song, Lazarus will help many people think afresh about mortality: about the reality of death, the struggle and the joy.

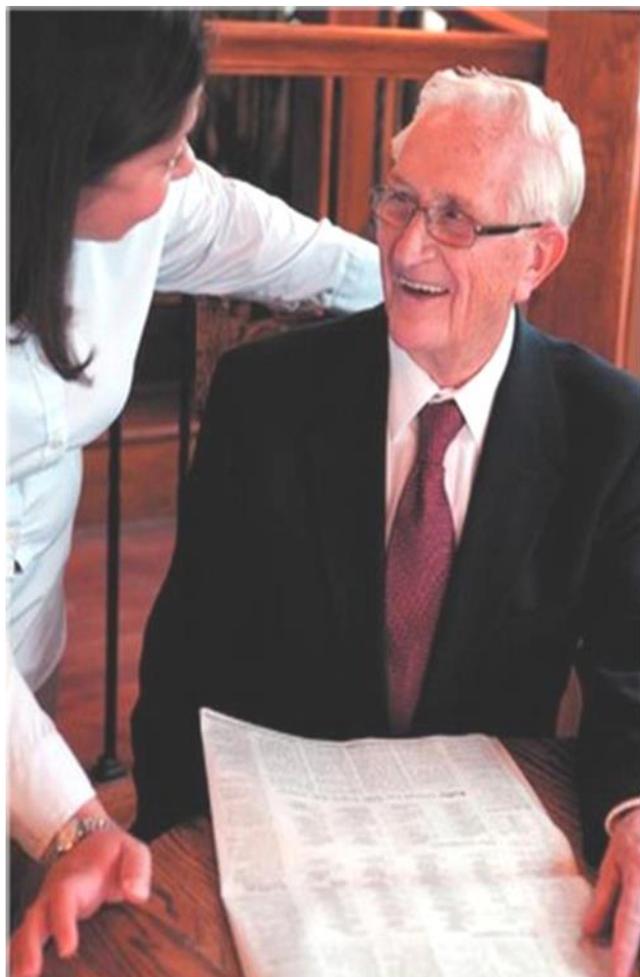
I hope that those who hear it will ponder the story of the original Lazarus, the resurrection of Jesus and all that the life of Jesus Christ means for the life of the world.

Everything changes with the belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. I look at my own death in a different way and the death of those close to me. The whole of my perspective on life is transformed.

Thank you, David, for the music and for this final song. Rest in peace.

David Bowie's Lazarus video can be viewed via this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-JqH1M4Ya8&feature=youtu.be>



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Will You Remember Them – February

North Korea

A Life of Hard Labour: A Pastor's Sentence

Lim Hyeun-soo, a Korean - Canadian pastor from Toronto, has been sentenced to a life of hard labour for numerous charges - including attempting to overthrow the government and establish a religious state in North Korea.

Pastors like Lim, who have seen so much of how North Korea treats its prisoners, believe it will be unlikely for him to return home any time soon.

Pastor Lim, aged 60, has travelled to North Korea over 100 times to do humanitarian work. Though he was not involved in the country's underground churches, the harsh sentencing has come after several of months crackdowns on Christians by the North Korean regime.

Sources in North Korea have confirmed that, in the recent crackdowns, Christians have been murdered and others have been incarcerated in prisons and labour camps. In both detention facilities, people are starved, tortured and the death rate is extremely high.

Christianity is seen as a threat to the North Korean regime: They believe Christians spy for the enemy, meet in secret and, at most, only give lip service to the North Korean government. Such disloyalty deserves severe punishment. Despite this tragic arrest and others, the church has survived almost 70 years of severe persecution. Between 200,000 and 400,000 Christians still secretly profess their faith.

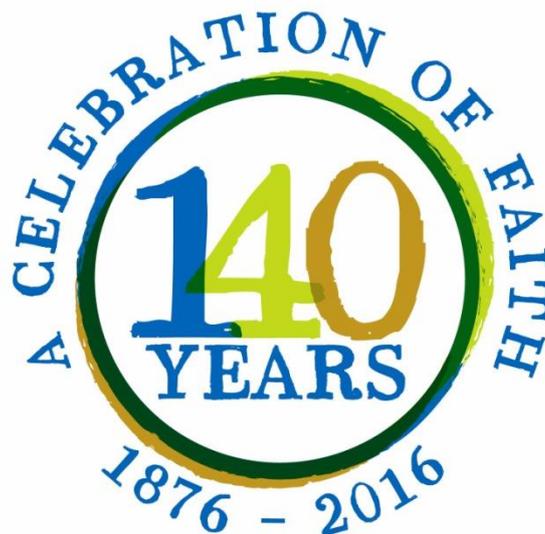
Please Pray

- For Pastor Lim and his family, that they will be strengthened and comforted by God, and that Pastor Lim may be freed.
- For tens of thousands of Christians incarcerated in North Korean camps and for the underground church, that they will feel God's protection and that they will shine like lights to those who do not know Christ.
- That Kim Jong – Un and the North Korean regime will come to know God's love and power.
- Amen.

JD

Happy Birthday to Mothers' Union!

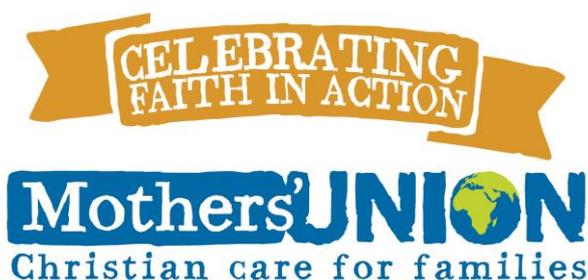
2016 will see the world's largest lay-Christian membership charity, Mothers' Union, mark 140 years of faithful outreach to families of all faiths and none. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own Hampshire parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children, it has grown to an organisation of over four million women – and men – in over 80 countries of the world.



Why celebrate 140th, rather than wait for 150th? In the first book of Samuel he marks an unlooked for victory against the mighty Philistines by erecting a stone, naming it “Ebenezer” meaning “stone of help” as a permanent reminder of the leading and guidance of God “Thus far has the Lord helped us”.

Over the past 140 years, Mothers' Union has faced, and will continue to face, many challenges. Family life is under increasing pressure and the call on charitable resources is higher today than ever before. But we can look at how we are meeting these challenges and say, like Samuel, “Thus far has the Lord helped us.”

Special anniversary services and celebration events are planned during the year, including a Celebration Service in Winchester Cathedral on the 22nd September; returning full-circle to where Mothers' Union was founded. New service resources for Mothering Sunday, Lady Day (4th April) and Mary Sumner Day (9th August), are available on Mothers' Union's website to enable churches to join us and hold their own celebratory events.



For more information contact a member of St. Mary's Mothers' Union:

Maureen Lambert - Branch Leader

Tele: 2469690

Norma Priest – Secretary

Tele: 2461729

Stephanie Hartshorne – Treasurer

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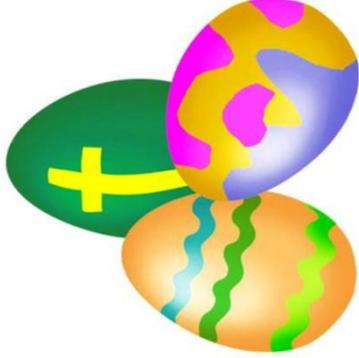
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See our Forthcoming Events page.



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St Mary's - Weekly Services

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) - On 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

10.00 am Services

1st Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ and choir

2nd Sunday of the month - Service of the Word with music group

3rd Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

4th Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

5th Sunday of the month - Sunday Celebration Services

12:00 pm Baptism Service

Baptism Service 1st Sunday of the month – (Except: August no baptisms)

4.00 pm Living Stones Service

An interactive service for children and families 3rd Sunday of the month

6.30 pm Evening Service

Except: 2nd Sunday of the month Holy Communion and 4th Sunday of the month

Prayer and Praise

Midweek Holy Communion – Thursdays at 9.30 am

Eva Ratcliffe Service - Wednesday at 10.30am

St Mary's - Activities & Groups

Church Office Opening times

Tuesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Coffee Shop

Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Bell Ringers

Tuesday 7.30 pm Bell ringing practice

Friday 7.30 pm Silent Bell ringing practice

Choir Practice

Friday 7.30 pm Choir practice in choir vestry

Music Group Practice

Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church

Wedding Bookings

Thursday 7.15 pm to 8.45 pm wedding booking evening

Church Diary Items to Note for February 2016

Day and Date	Time	Item
Saturday 6 th	12.30 pm	Wedding Vow Renewal
Sunday 7 th	12.00 pm	Baptisms
Wednesday 10 th	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Friday 12 th	1.30 pm	Wedding
Sunday 14 th	12.30 pm	Wedding
Monday 15 th	7.30 pm	Baptism Preparation
“ “	7.30 pm	Outreach Team
Wednesday 17 th	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting
Thursday 18 th	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 20 th	9.00 am	Prayer Breakfast
“ “	1.00 pm	Wedding
Sunday 21 st	4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
Monday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer
Wednesday 24 th	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting
Thursday 25 th	7.30 pm	Finance Team
Saturday 27 th	10.00 am	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning

From the Registers

Baptisms

6 th December	Connie-Anne Arthurs
6 th December	Koby Russell Zacharkiewicz
6 th December	Harry Lee Colin Martin Clarke
3 rd January	Sienna Rose Marriott
3 rd January	Lucas Kyle Brammer
3 rd January	Alisha Beverly Rita Birtles

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

Funeral

2nd December	Jean Newbould	71
4th December	Ethel Powell	94
9th December	Betty Perrens	87
8th December	Brenda Miles	85
15th December	Roy Howe	77
31st December	Terence John Renshaw	75

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

Flower Rota February 2016

7 th	S. Pratt & K. Bailey	21 st	Lent –No Flowers
14 th	Lent –No Flowers	28 th	Lent –No Flowers

Ecclesfield Library - Forthcoming Events

3rd February - Sugar Craft demonstration

7pm to 9pm - Tickets £5 (including refreshments) Now on sale at the Library

10th February - Valentines Crafts for children

1pm to 3.30pm cost £2. Limited number of places - Please register at the Library

12th February - Imagination Gaming

Table top games for the whole family - 1.30pm to 4pm

16th February - Kinetic

12noon to 3pm - Reflexology, Nutrition, Acupuncture etc. Watch out for poster.



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The Gardening Year – February 2016

Snowdrops and other bulbs in flower are a reminder that spring is near, and warmer spells allow the gardener to prepare the ground for planting. If the wind is in the east at the beginning of the month winter is likely to remain for a further spell of some weeks but if there are clouds and rain the winter is virtually over especially if the wind is westerly.



A Summary of the Months' work – attend to paths and to border edgings. Keep the lawns well swept and rolled and as soon as the weather turns warm begin to use the mower. Divide and replant herbaceous plants whenever there is a favourable opportunity, top dress established borders with the fertiliser, Growmore is ideal.

The Rock Garden - parts of the rock garden that are unsatisfactory can be remade this month. Plant the rock plants firmly and top dress with chippings or similar material round each of the plants, this prevents them from becoming too damp which is a frequent cause of decay among the more tender plants.

The Shrubbery – some of the shrubs can be pruned this month. Cut back old wood clean the soil by forking in the leaves. Many shrubs make new and unwanted stems from the base, these should be layered to form new plants hoeing should be carried out whenever the weather permits.

Sweet Peas – if the weather and soil are suitable, fork over the area where sweet peas are to be planted. Break up any clods and pulverise the top few inches of soil, treading helps to provide a firm settled soil structure beneficial to rooting.

Fruit – weed strawberries, lightly fork the surface soil and give a light dressing of manure. Use prunings from currants and gooseberries as cuttings. Train loganberries and blackberries on the wires stretched between poles, laying the stems horizontally along the wires.

Vegetables – plant shallots now, press the small bulbs half-way into the soil. There should be a foot apart. If the weather permits dig the site in preparation for planting out peas, broad beans and onion sets in March.

Colin Williams



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Hotpoint

February - the month of love...

- Love is practical or it is not love at all. - *P W Heward*
- Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. - *Thomas Merton*
- Love can wait to give; it is lust that can't wait to get. - *Josh McDowell*
- It is the difference betwixt lust and love.... Love grows, lust wastes, by enjoyment; and the reason is that one springs from a union of souls, and the other from a union of sense. - *William Penn*
- Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - *Anon*
- One plus one equals one may not be an accurate mathematical concept, but it is an accurate description of God's intention for the marriage relationship. - *Wayne Mack*



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here



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Saint of the Month – Phileas - 4th Feb

Phileas – brave bishop/martyr of Egypt

When did you first encounter Christianity? If it was an adult, then Phileas is a saint for you. His life shows that Truth matters, whenever you encounter it, but is also a warning that you need to count the cost of becoming a Christian.

Phileas was a rich man living in Egypt at the end of the third century, when he first met Christians. Highly educated, he did not convert quickly, but instead studied their Gospels, and also at least part of the New Testament. Only then did he conclude that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

It was good that Phileas had done his research and was firm in his faith, because after his conversion, events came thick and fast. In those pressured times, the Church hadn't the luxury of long training programmes for leaders, and so Phileas was chosen to be bishop of his city in the Thebaid, a desert region of ancient Egypt.

Sadly, the new bishop hardly ever had a chance to pastor his flock. Soon after his consecration at Alexandria in 303, Phileas was arrested under the edicts of the Roman emperor Diocletian. He spent the next three years in prison, deeply moved by the willing martyrdoms of other Christians around him. Finally, in 306, it was Phileas' turn. He faced the questioning of the prefect, Culcianus, who could not fathom why such a previously wealthy man had thrown his life away to follow some (long dead?) carpenter from Galilee.

Phileas' strength now was that he really knew what the Bible said. And so when questioned about Jesus's divinity, he replied that "... he performed the works of God in power and actuality... he cleansed lepers, made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dumb speak, he drove demons from his creatures at a command; he cured paralytics, raised the dead to life, and performed many other signs and wonders."

Still Culcianus urged him to save his life, by sacrificing to the gods. Phileas again had a biblical answer ready. Paraphrasing St Paul, he said that the sacrifices which God requires are "a pure heart, a spotless soul and spiritual perceptions which lead to deeds of piety and justice..." Pressed one final time, he replied "I have reflected many times, and this is my decision." And so he was led out and beheaded.

Mothers Union

December

'Celebrate and Sing' is how we started our meeting on Wednesday afternoon 1st December by celebrating Hazel Rollins Birthday with a cake and singing 'Happy Birthday to you' then the next celebration our Christmas Party started with food-as all parties do and what a delicious spread of savoury delights and sweet temptations and of course drinks-thanks to the committee members who prepared it all to enjoy. The celebrations continued with several members giving poems, stories, readings some serious others more light hearted, all very entertaining. Well done to the individuals who participated. In between the items we sang some favorite carols reminding us that Christmas is the time we celebrate our Saviours birth.

A.S.

January

We began our first meeting of the New Year on the 6th January by pleasantly celebrating Pat Smith's birthday with cake and bubbly. We then had an energy inspiring, "Armchair Keep Fit" session with Joy Turnbull. Joy gave us exercises to do starting from our neck, through our bodies down to our feet explaining as she did so the benefits of each one. Some were designed for balance, some to enable us to get out of a chair comfortably and some to ensure we are able to continue bending down to put our knickers on. Joy explained how the majority of people have disregarded the governments' guide lines on exercise until the recommendations now are for a minimum of thirty minutes a day for adults. Joy emphasised the importance of keeping moving and suggested the exercise could be done in three ten minute sessions. All of the exercises we did today can be done from sitting on a chair and none were too onerous. Joy made the exercises more enjoyable by her humorous banter. We had a very lively and beneficial afternoon however we may not have exercised enough to compensate for the delicious cake we had earlier.



Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

Yorke Salon

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Crossword Puzzle (Solution is on page 21)

Clues Across

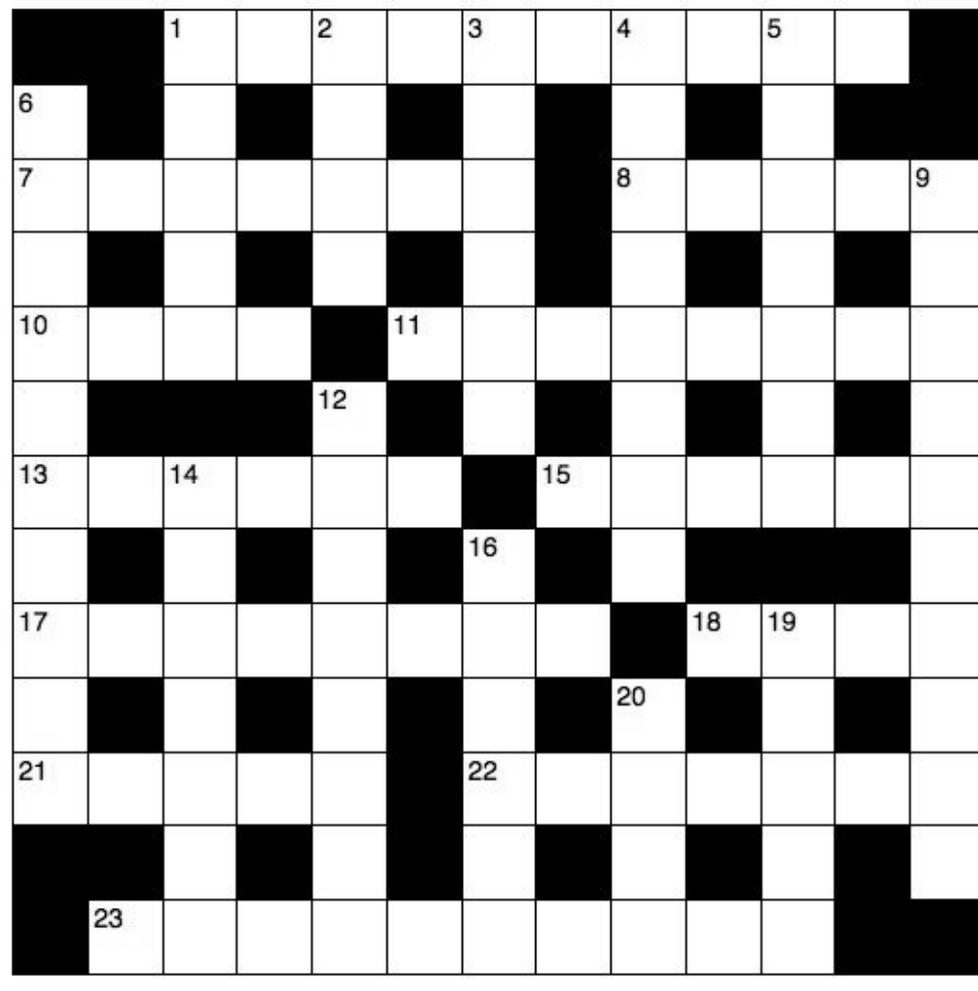
- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’ (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16:18) (5)

20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Solution is on Page 21



Smile Lines

Giving up for Lent

At the end of the vicar's pre-Lent sermon he suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.

Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel... 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?"'

Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer on Prayer

Dear Father,

Thank you that you want us, your children, to connect with you in prayer.

Thank you that we can come to you, rest in your presence and spend time with you, either quietly or crying out our thoughts and concerns from open hearts.

Help us to trust you; to be confident that you hear us and will answer our prayers, in the right time and in the right way for us, even if we don't always understand.

Thank you for the sustaining privilege of prayer,

In Jesus name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Flame of a Candle

See the candle flame a-burning
See its flick'ring, dancing light;
See how it, the darkness spurning
Burns throughout the darkest night.

Light of faith, of God reminding
As His Spirit, long ago
Lit the first apostles, finding
Faith within the Spirit's glow.

Light of life – God's life eternal
Won through Christ's atoning death
Sparing us from Hell, infernal
Granting us His living breath!

Light of hope, in God victorious
For we know that He will win
When we'll see His flames of glorious
Vict'ry o'er the pow'r of sin!

Light your candle, kneel and praise Him
Kneel and praise the Lord of Hosts;
Let your prayers and praises raise Him
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

By Nigel Beeton

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well
pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

*Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th
Century*

A Big Day

Last Saturday was a big day at the Martial Arts Academy where I train. We were taking part in a ‘Kickathon’ to raise money for Sheffield Alcohol Support Service (SASS). I went training as normal but it was an hour before we started the Kickathon.

One of my instructors Mr Wragg said ‘Come on, we’ll go out VIP canvassing’. Basically VIP canvassing is going out onto the street to talk to people about martial arts and inviting them to take up the offer of free lessons for the first month. To be honest, I was not too enthusiastic, but he thought I could do it so I went. It struck me that this was not unlike some of the mission I did during the Crossroads Mission in September. That involved among other things, talking to people about Jesus in a pub in Norwood, after playing football in Wensley Park, whilst litter picking in Page Hall and in an Adventure Playground in Pitsmoor (which I didn’t even know existed).

In both cases, I was able to do it, because I believed in what I was talking about. Although very different both talking about martial arts and talking about Jesus are probably among the things in my life about which I am most passionate. Both, in different ways, are potentially life changing. Both in different ways have changed my life. Being a Christian for me means being in relationship with God and giving my life to serve Him. Martial arts has given me some of the tools to do that well.

The Academy is like a family, and has a philosophy about making people better equipped people to serve the city. The ‘Kickathon’ was one such aspect; one of the Black Belts is on work placement at SASS. Before the ‘Kickathon’ started she told us about some of the families she worked with whose lives have been affected by alcohol abuse, so we really understood why we were raising the money. The ‘Kickathon’ (which involved teams of five, kicking bags or pads for one hour – each team had to have one person in rotation kicking for the whole hour) was so much fun and the encouragement was absolutely fantastic and friendships cemented. Some of the families which were being helped by SASS also came down and the children were encouraged to take part, as it was an opportunity they wouldn’t usually have. It was quite humbling that we were able to help in some small in improving their lives and having so much fun at the same time.

I have been in past been asked if martial arts is at odds with my faith – I would say a resounding ‘no’ – it is helping me to serve God and serve the community and it is something in which I am very proud.

Katharine Lonsborough

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
Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling
greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday
10 am to 12 noon
Tel : Angela 0114 2461095

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

Run by the community for the community.
Volunteer helpers always needed.
Tel: 0114 246 3651
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 - Bryony Hemming
Tel. 07983 719155
Group Scout Leader
John Otter Tel. 0114 246 1752

The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's
Church Hall at 7:30 pm
Secretary: Garry Leigh
Tel: 0114 246 4714
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some Sundays
and weekdays.
Please contact Steve Fletcher if you wish
to play or learn.
Manager – Steve Fletcher 245 2406
Secretary – Joe Webster 245 2518
www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk

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



Useful Contacts



Vicar Vacancy – we are currently in Interregnum'

<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Katharine Lonsborough	286 4332
	Irene Proctor	246 0373
	Andrew Robinson	246 3646
	Michael Waldron	246 3091
<u>Readers:</u>	Pat Clarke	257 7191
	Stephanie Dale	245 2392

<u>Pastoral Workers:</u>	Pat Wood	246 5086
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Church Office:

Tuesday - Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm	245 0106
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Church Choir Practice in Church

Friday 7:30 pm - Contact: Don Knott	246 8430
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Music Group Practice in Church

Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker	246 0746
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Mother's Union in Gatty Hall

1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm

Contact: Maureen Lambert	246 9690
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Ecclesfield Ladies Group in Gatty Hall

Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron	245 5492
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Bell Ringers meet in Church Belfry

Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Phil Hirst	286 2766
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Gatty Hall Bookings,

Contact: Margaret Roberts	246 3993
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Baptisms: Contact – Pat Clarke	257 7191
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Weddings: Contact – The Church Office	245 0106
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“ Or email: ecclesfield.weddings@gmail.com

Office e-mail office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com

Magazine e-mail magazine.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com



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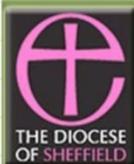
Service times 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Dates - Fridays in Lent:

19th February - 26th February - 4th March

11th March - 18th March

Cakes may also be available at extra cost



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Ecclesfield