

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine April 2017

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First Words

April is a very busy month here at St Mary's.

This month we will celebrate Holy Week and Easter. This is the central celebration of the Church's year and it is the heart of our worship.

On Palm Sunday (9th April) we will mark the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We will be given Palm Crosses in Church, reminding us that the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as King cried out 'Crucify him' only a week later. In our morning service we will have dramatised reading of the story of Jesus' Cross and Passion.

On the evening of Palm Sunday we will be celebrating the work of possibly the greatest hymn writer in the English language, Charles Wesley. It is an opportunity to come along and sing and worship together at the start of Holy Week.

On Monday 10th April in the evening there is a special service in the Cathedral in which we will be invited to renew our baptismal promises. It is a time to meet together as a diocese and to pray for each other.

Maundy Thursday is on the 13th April. In the evening we will have a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper, starting at 7.30pm. The service ends with a silent vigil in Church for an hour as we remember Jesus' words to His disciples asking them to keep awake with Him in Gethsemane.

On Good Friday (14th April) we keep Three Hours at the Cross. From 12 noon to 2pm there will be a Bible Reading, a Hymn and a brief reflection every half hour. Please feel free to come and leave throughout this time - try to enter or leave just before the half hour if possible. At 2pm we begin the special service for Good Friday which focuses on the Passion of Jesus, and ends at 3pm when we recall that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus' body from the Cross and laid it in a tomb.

On Easter Day (16th April) we celebrate the victory of the Cross as we mark Jesus' resurrection. We light the Easter Candle, a reminder that the risen Lord Jesus is with us, and we celebrate the defeat of death and evil.

On the Sunday after Easter (23rd April) the Annual General Meeting will be held in Church after the 10am service.

Please pray for those who will stand as members of the PCC or as Church wardens.

Finally on the weekend of the 29th and 30th April we are having a Parish Weekend at Home! On the Saturday morning we will meet in Church to discern together what God has been saying to us and where He is leading us as His Church here at St Mary's. Then on the Sunday morning we will have a special celebration service at 10am followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

God bless,

Tim



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Mrs Ann Hackett (0114) 246 7159

Front Cover – Ewe with her Lamb on York moors

Back Cover – Easter Craft Afternoon and E.P.P.I.C Posters

Thought for the Month

It was Saint Augustine who said that Christians are an Easter people. Easter is the spiritual heart of our faith and our life, and it forms the foundation of our worship. Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection and every time we break bread together in the Eucharist we proclaim the dying and rising of Jesus.

In the weeks leading to Easter this year we have been reminded that evil is not simply an idea; it is the reality of lives destroyed and of hatred allowed to flourish. We see it as we watch events in the Middle East and hear the stories of those people who have been forced to live under the tyranny of Daesh. We see it closer to home in the face of a violent thug who used religion as a pretext for murdering four innocent people on Westminster Bridge.

What does it mean for us to celebrate Easter this year with these events so close? What does the Easter faith say in a world like ours? Is it simply an escapist fantasy, or is there a message to sustain us?

The Gospel takes evil seriously. It doesn't pretend that evil is not real or powerful. The Gospel makes us face human sin and frailty with honesty. We see in the Cross of Jesus the failure of politics and religion: Pilate sends an innocent man to be executed because it is convenient and the chief priests hold a kangaroo court to get rid of a man who threatens their privilege and status. We also see in the events of Holy Week the failure of friendship and human courage: the crowds who hailed Him as king call for Jesus to be crucified, and He is deserted and denied by his friends and left to face the Cross almost alone. Only the women stay with Him.

But Easter is not a tragedy; it is a victory. It is the victory of life over death, of love over hatred and of truth over falsehood. But Easter victory is the victory of resurrection; and the only way to resurrection is to go through the Cross. The path to the victory of the empty tomb takes us through Calvary.

As we pray for the victims of hatred and prejudice; for the civilians caught up in warfare; as we try to comfort the bereaved and support those broken by the mess and pain of life, we do so as an Easter people. We do so as a people whose hope is shaped by the Cross and the resurrection of Jesus.

We look at the Cross and the empty tomb and they speak to us of a God who is with us in the pain and brokenness of life in this world; of a God who weeps with the victims of our world. They also speak to us of a God who will bring us through to victory beyond suffering and defeat, on the other side of the Cross.

As an Easter people we know that nothing in this world, not sin and evil, not betrayal and jealousy, not even death itself is more powerful than the love of God in Christ.

As the people of the crucified and risen God we can face the world and all of its pain with hope and with trust. We put ourselves and those we love and pray for into the hands of Jesus - into the hands that still carry the marks of the nails. We know that nothing in all creation: not life or death, not powers or armies or hate filled men; nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For, as Augustine said, 'We are an Easter people, and "Alleluia" is our song.'

God Bless,

Tim.



Palm Sunday 9th April 6.30pm

We are having a singalong of Charles Wesley hymns instead of the usual Easter Cantata. It will be along the same lines as the Moody & Sankey evening which was much enjoyed.

Charles Wesley wrote 8,989 hymns 10-times the volume composed by Isaac Watts who could also lay claim to being one of the world's greatest hymn writers. We often sing hymns without looking to see who wrote them. Charles Wesley wrote: - Hark The Herald Angels Sing – And Can It Be – O For A 1000 Tongues To Sing – Love Divine All Loves Excelling, etc.



All the hymns written by Wesley rhymed and scanned and could be sung to any tune of the same metre. Enough, come and sing, bring your friends and enjoy the service.

Don Knott

Prayer for the Month

The prayer of Silence.

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ... For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.”

I am sure that I am not the only person who at times finds prayer difficult. Sometimes it is more than difficult; it is impossible.

At times the problem is with words: they are insufficient. How can human words express the glory of the infinite and infinitely loving God? They cannot. I am often silenced in the presence of God, especially when I have been contemplating the death of Jesus. Here I am confronted by a love which is deeper than human thoughts can ever capture. All that I can do is kneel in silent praise. At times such as these silence is more eloquent than words.

At other times I pray in silence simply because I know that I do not know how to pray or what to pray for. When a friend speaks of the pain of loss or of the sudden onset of a devastating illness, words fail me. I know that whatever I say will not be right. And when I pray in these circumstances I do not know what to ask for. Sometimes we hear of a natural disaster striking some corner of our world, or of a people whose lives are devastated by the outbreak of war or violence. Our words are not adequate.

At times like these words when fail me, all that I can do is kneel in silence before God and hold that person or that situation in my heart before the Father whose love and compassion are without limit; the God who knows the needs of every person better than I ever will; the God who knows the cries of our hearts.

As is often the case in human relationships, so with God, there are times when our silence can say much more than our words. Some people have the gift of intercession; God gives them the right words when they pray. But for others God gives us the gift of silence. We hold others in our hearts before the God who is their Father; the God whose love for them is without limit and who knows their needs better than we can.

Even when words fail us we are still called to pray for the world and for those who God brings into our lives each day. Praying, interceding for others is our duty and our privilege. I believe that it delights God's heart when we come to Him, not for ourselves and for our needs, but with others on our hearts. And, whether we pray in words or in silence, it is part of our calling as children of the Father.

God bless

Tim

Letter from St James the Least of All: On the perils of letting the laity read the lessons

The Rectory
James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was good to see you last Sunday morning on your own home ground. The Service was interesting – although I have yet to recover from that period of frightful liturgical debauchery you call ‘passing the peace’. Why should I welcome total strangers grabbing my hand and smiling deep into my eyes? One lady would simply not let go – I had to shake her off.

As for the reading of the lessons, I was astonished that you allow members of the congregation (in shirtsleeves, too) to bring their own Bible to the front. It lacks any degree of solemnity and decorum. There should be a lectern Bible, preferably about four feet square in dimensions. And where was a suitable lectern? I admit that having a substantial brass eagle in your church would be like placing Nelson’s Column in a Scout tent, but surely something suitable in wood could be found.

We have quite gone with the fashion here at St James the Least of All, and now have members of the laity – even women! – taking our Bible readings. The decision may have been a mistake. Our lectern stands at 6 feet; Miss Peckham stands at five feet. When she is reading, as far as the congregation can see, we have God’s Word being proclaimed by a straw hat bearing imitation fruit.

The Major’s reading at last Sunday’s Evensong was Numbers 22, and his adoption of different voices for the narrator, Balaam and Balak was acceptable, if a little theatrical. But his use of a fourth voice for the ass turned the occasion into pantomime – a point picked up by our choirboys. When the ass asked: ‘was I ever wont to do so unto thee’, the boys chorused ‘Oh yes you did’. (Surely it should have been “Oh yes thou didst”).

Mrs Smeed’s rendition of the genealogy at the start of Saint Matthew’s gospel clearly takes her back to the schoolroom. She sounded as if she is holding a roll call – and if Shealtiel were by any chance missing, she would demand a good explanation.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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MU Meeting on the 1st March

Our meeting on the 1st of March coincided with Ash Wednesday and how appropriate that our speaker The Reverend Jeni Fryer spoke to us on “,The Road To The Cross”. Looking at the journey which led Jesus to the cross and the road our own journeys of faith have taken us so far. Jeni placed stones on a table these were to represent each year of Jesus life.

Jeni began when Jesus was a year old, the first stone placed and a reading from Matthew chapter 2 verses 13 to 15, the flight to Egypt. Herod’s decision to have all the boys under the age of two massacred was horrendous and only Josephs obedience to God to take Jesus to Egypt saved him.

We move on to a 12 year old Jesus, 11 stones placed and a reading from Luke chapter 4. Verses 41 to 52. Jesus is in the temple sitting among the teachers listening asking questions and amazing everyone with his understanding. Jesus was well on his journey of faith how had he come to this profound understanding of his heavenly father? How old was Jesus when he knew who he was? How did it impact on his childhood? We were asked to think of our own childhoods did we have any early memories what we thought of God or Jesus? When did we begin to acknowledge God? How do any of us grow in the knowledge of God’s love and life in us? Does that growth ever end?

17 more stones were placed Jesus is about 29 years old. He has been baptised and affirmed by God as his son who he loves and is pleased with. Jesus has chosen his disciples, has been preaching, healing and teaching. The next reading was from Mark chapter 8 verses 27 to 31, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ Peter answered,” You are the Christ”. Jesus knew he was on the road to the cross and began to teach the disciples that he would suffer many things. Three more stones and a further reading Mark chapter 8. Verses 32 to 33. Peter begins to rebuke Jesus as he cannot conceive that suffering and rejection should happen to the Messiah. Jesus then rebukes Peter, “Get thee behind me Satan”. Jeni reminded us of Jesus ministry during the next three years and how he challenged the powers that be and put himself in danger again and again but only ever wanting to do the Father’s will. Over these next weeks we will be following the last part of Jesus journey to the cross .We have all travelled a road to Jesus sometimes suffering grief, loss ,illness and pain. We have also known joy, friendship and love. We have all travelled with God and felt his love and presence with us. Mother’s Union has also been a part of our journey with God with prayer, love and friendship.

Jeni asked us to take a stone to sit quietly and think what Jesus has given us, how his cross has enhanced our lives, perhaps changed our lives and to think how we will be travelling the road with Jesus through lent. Jeni led us in prayer to finish.

Diary

Wednesday 5 th	1.00 pm	Meet in the Gatty Hall / Speaker – Mary White
Wednesday 19 th	7.30 pm	Mothers’ Union at 21 Minster Road



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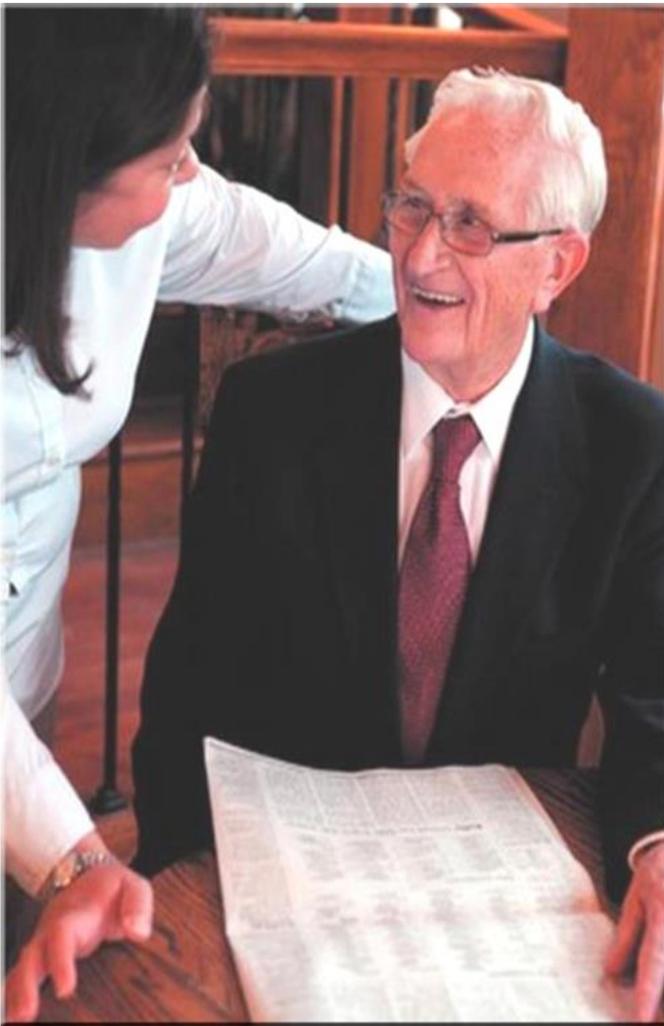
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Will You Remember Them April

India, Egypt & Sri Lanka

India - Christians the targets of hate crime every other day so far in 2017. At least 15 believers assaulted, including two women beaten by their husbands; two church meetings and two marriage services disrupted ; several church buildings vandalised and looted; a Christian orphanage shut down by police for “child trafficking”, pastors threatened; a peace gathering attacked by a mob. Such is the litany of frequently violent persecution experienced by Indian Christians at the hands of Hindus in a single month: February 2017. The Evangelical Fellowship of India recorded 20 verified hate crimes against Christians in February alone, taking the total for the first two months of 2017 to 38, more than one every other day. Indian believers are living on the persecution front line in a country where they are supposed to be protected.

Egypt - Local officials refuse Christians permission to meet; there will be no public celebration of Easter in the village of Kom Al Lufi, as the village’s Christians are still being refused permission to meet by authorities, nine months after Muslim rioters destroyed several Christian homes after falsely claiming one would be used as a church. Following the violence, a building in which believers had gathered to pray was closed, although local officials later pledged to re-open it to allow Christians to meet. “We still have to travel to other nearby villages to hold services,” explains one Christian resident. “Means of transport are not easy here, meaning that the aged and weak can never manage to go.”

Sri Lanka - Police and Buddhist mob invade prayer meeting and shut down church, claiming it needs to “register”. A mob of around 30 Buddhists, accompanied by a police officer, invaded a youth prayer meeting in Morawaka village in southern Sri Lanka on 10th February and halted the meeting. They attempted to take the believer’s Bibles and told them to stop worship activities. Later that day, the police ordered the church pastor to suspend all meetings until he could provide proof the church had been, “registered”; majority Buddhists frequently claim that churches should be registered, despite the fact there is no legal requirement for them to do so.

JD

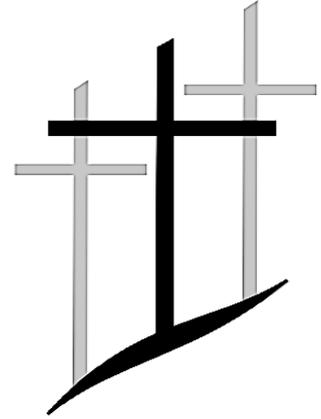
For Your Prayers - The situations in:

- India
- Egypt
- Sri Lanka

The thief on the Cross - Luke 23: 32-43

The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the thief on the Cross.

Luke's account of the crucifixion emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35, 37, and 39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the man who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.



One Criminal's Taunts

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? And yet, unlike his companion, he failed to see that the cross itself is the means of salvation.

What kind of Messiah was Jesus?

One Criminal's Faith

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus' death was on behalf of all people. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me'*, he confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In what ways have we experienced God's grace?

The Messiah's Promise

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of being with Jesus?

'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

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St Mary's – Regular 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 - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 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

Church Diary Items to Note for April 2017

Day and Date	Time	Item
Sunday 2 nd	12 noon	Baptism Service
Monday 3 rd	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Wednesday 5 th	7.30 pm	Lent Course - Everyday God by Paula Gooder
Saturday 8 th	9.00 am	Prayer Breakfast in Church
Palm Sunday 9 th	2.00 pm	Children's Easter Crafts
	6.30 pm	Service of Wesley Hymns
Wednesday 12 th	7.30 pm	Holy Week Service
Thursday 13 th	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday 14 th	10.00 am	Children & Parents
	12 noon	Three hours at the Cross
Easter Day 16 th	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Friday 21 st	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	11.15 am	Annual General Meeting
	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Service
Wednesday 26 th	7.30 pm	Finance Meeting
Saturday 29 th	10.00 am	Meeting - Planning and Vision for the future.
Sunday 30 th	10.00 am	Service followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

From the Registers

Baptisms

5th March	Oliver John Thompson
12th March	Thomas William Silverwood

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

Weddings

18th March Brett Moffatt & Tammy Phillips

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

Funerals

1st March	Kenneth David Cade	74
3rd March	Joyce Adams	94
3rd March	Arthur Edward Adams	94
15th March	Thomas Parkin	97
27th March	Pamela Georgina Prior	80
29th March	Sydney Thompson	69
29th March	Janet Mary Wall	83

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

Flower Rota April 2017

2nd Lent - No Flowers

23rd W. Brunt & V. Brunt

9th No Flowers (Palm Sunday)

30th Vacant

16th Easter Flowers

Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday 13th April 7.30pm

Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by an (optional) hour's silent prayer
(Remembering Jesus request that the disciples stay with Him for one hour)

Good Friday 14th April, 12 noon - 3pm

Three Hours at the Cross

From 12 -2pm there will be a reading, hymn and brief reflection every half hour *Please enter or leave just before the half hour*

From 2-3pm we will have the special service of readings and prayers for Good Friday

Easter Day 16th April

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Easter Eucharist

6.30pm Evening worship for Easter

The Children's Society

Lent provides us with an important opportunity to reflect on The Children's Society's work. We renew our resolve not to give up being there to listen to, protect and support our country's most vulnerable young people. Throughout Lent, there are many ways you and your church can come together and show your support. However you choose to help us, your support will change children's lives.

We invite you to pray with us through Lent. We pray:

God of hope,
You know what it is like for us to face temptation,
having been tempted in the wilderness.
Yet you remained steadfast.
Thank you that Jesus Christ, the Son of God
and the Son of Man
is able to rescue, heal and help,
whilst understanding our pain and struggles.

Amen



The Gardening Year – April 2017

Hardy Herbaceous Plants – plant late flowering herbaceous plants and those which are slow growing to make new growth such as schizostylis, kniphofias and aster (Michaelmas daisies). Michaelmas daisies deteriorate fairly quickly and much finer flowers and healthier growth come from young plants. Lift and divide old clumps this month, when dividing them use only the healthiest outside shoots, two or three single shoots planted together will make a good show in the Autumn. The dwarf kinds often spread more quickly and though less liable to deteriorate with age may need curbing. Always dig the ground deeply where old plants are to be replaced by young, and mix in manure or compost and a handful of bone meal.

Dahlias – towards the end of the month in warm and sheltered areas plant out healthy dormant tubers in the garden. You can tell which tubers are useless because they are completely shrivelled or have rotted at the crown.

House plants – although room temperatures in the average home will not yet have risen a great deal house plants will now be responding to the longer hours of daylight. This is the time to prepare them for vigorous growth during the summer. Examine each plant carefully removing dead or disfigured leaves. Wash off any dust that may have accumulated during the winter. Take small leaved plants into the bathroom or the sink and spray them with clean, tepid water. Never apply olive oil furniture polish or milk to give the leaves an extra shine as these clog the pores. There are proprietary preparations to add shine to large leaves. Slightly increase the rate of watering and give any cacti kept indoors their first good watering since the autumn. This will plump them up and help to induce flowering. After the middle of the month sow seeds or border carnations and pinks in seed trays in a cold greenhouse or frame, space the seed $\frac{1}{4}$ in. apart and cover with a thin layer of fine soil. When the first true leaves (not the seed leaves which appear first) are $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 in. long prick out the seedlings 2 in. apart into seed trays and then on treat them as hardy perennials, planting them in the open border when they have formed bushy plants.

Vegetables – in a cool greenhouse plant tomatoes in a prepared bed allowing 15 in. between plants and 18 in. between rows. Before planting make sure that the compost in the pots or grow bags are moist. If you are growing plants on ring culture system, use potting compost and bottomless containers which are 8 in. deep and 9-10 in. diameter. Keep the aggregate base moist after planting watering the containers just sufficiently to keep the plants growing. Once the roots have penetrated into the aggregate no further watering of the containers will be needed, except when the plants are fed.

Colin Williams.

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef...mad cow.

Can't eat chicken...bird flu.

Can't eat eggs...Salmonella.

Can't eat pork...fears that bird flu will infect piggies. Also trichinosis.

Can't eat fish...heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies...insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, and rice...nasty carbs.

Hmm! I believe that leaves... **chocolate.**

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Hotpoint

The man who drank three beers ☺ ☹ ☺

A man who had just moved to a village in County Kerry walked into the local pub and ordered three beers. The bartender raised his eyebrows, but served the man three beers, which he drank quietly at a table, alone.

Next day, the man came back to the pub and ordered three more beers. This happened again and again, until soon the village is all whispering about the "Man Who Orders Three Beers". Finally, about a month later, the bartender broached the subject on behalf of the town.

‘Ah,’ said the man. ‘You see, I have two brothers. Long ago, one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank, as a way of keeping up the family bond.’ The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon The "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity.

Then, one day, the man came in and ordered only two beers. The bartender poured them with a heavy heart. The word flew around town, and prayers were offered for the soul of one of the brothers. Next day, the bartender said to the man, ‘Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer our condolences to you ...’

The man pondered this for a moment. ‘You’ll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It’s just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent.’



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

		P	R	I	E	S	T	H	O	O	D	
P		A		N		H		U		U		
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E				M		M		N		G		S
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N	S	P	C	C		T	R	A	M	P	L	E
		E		A		C		M		L		S
		P	E	R	I	S	H	A	B	L	E	

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British Institute of Funeral Directors Eric Eyre National President
1989 - 1990



Saint of the Month – St George – 24th April

St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St. George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St. George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in a daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

Jesus' appearances after his Resurrection

Mary Magdalene...	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb...	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem...	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road...	Mark 16:12, 13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas...	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing...	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain...	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500...	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James...	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension...	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

Ecclesfield Guide May Queen

Ecclesfield Guides, Brownies & Rainbows are busy practicing hard for their 73rd Annual May Queen concert which will take place on 11th, 12th, 13th May. This year nearly 100 Guides, Brownies & Rainbows will be taking part in the show where they will be singing, dancing & acting throughout the evening.

During the second half of the show our New May Queen will be crowned. This year we are pleased to announce that Lois Nutbrown will be crowned Queen Blush Peony.

Tickets for the show are now available from any of the Leaders or by phoning Claire on 2461289.

Come & join in the fun.

Ecclesfield Guide May Queen



Thursday 11th May 2017

Friday 12th May 2017

Saturday 13th May 2017



The Gatty Hall, Priory Road, Ecclesfield at 7pm

Tickets £4.50 Adults - £3.00 Children

Tickets are now available from Guides, Brownies,
Rainbows or by calling: 0114 2461289

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315 High Street Ecclesfield S35 9NB

Salon Telephone: **0114 246 7762**

Wheel Chair Access



Coffee Shop *at St Mary's Church*



Every Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Luscious Cakes, Tea / Coffee

All Welcome – Free Internet Wi-Fi

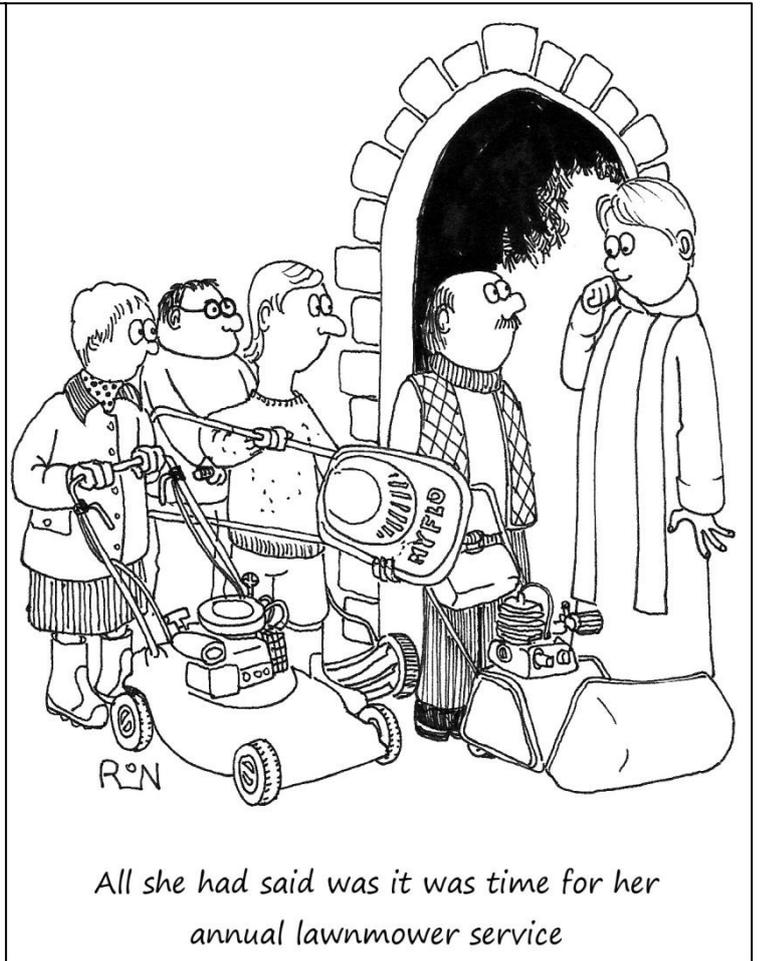
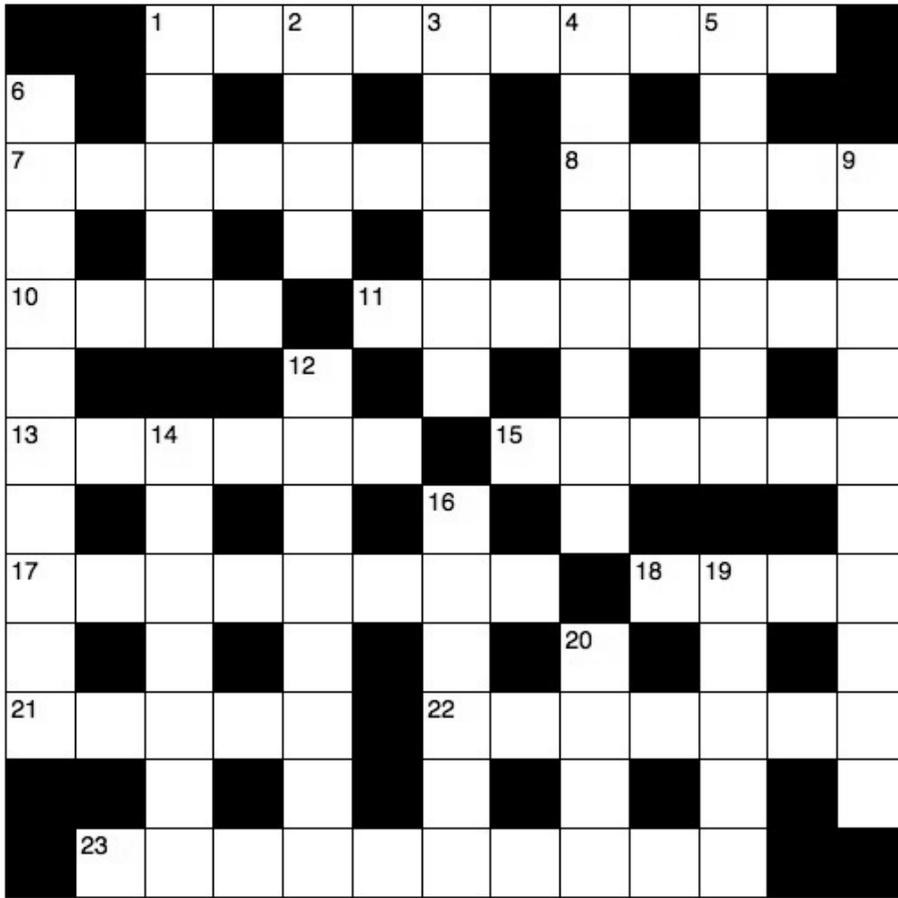
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)



Prayers and Poems Page

Prayer for Resurrection Power

Thank you Father that, because of what Jesus achieved on the cross, we can be resurrection-powered people; empowered to live each day confidently, whatever life's challenges may be, knowing that our security is in you alone.

In Jesus you have overcome the world and its troubles and have defeated death. When the world seems overwhelming Lord, help us to keep Jesus as our compass and to come safely to the one who has the words of eternal life. Help us to hear those words and respond in trust and anticipation.

Thank you Father for giving us your Son and your Spirit. Thank you for your life-giving Easter work. In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Victory

In the garden His sweat was as great drops of blood,
Knowing the ordeal that lay ahead.
When He came from eternity into time
'It's to do Thy will, not mine', He said.

The hour had come, He must drink the cup
Fulfilment of scripture would start that day
When He who was sinless would forfeit His life,
Unblemished the Lamb who would take sin away.

His miracles had touched so many lives
But the crowd had turned, it had come to this –
An arrest by the chief priests with lanterns and swords,
Led by a friend and betrayed with a kiss.

He bore the cross - a victory shout!
God's wisdom now for all to see,
'If I be lifted up', He said
'Then I will draw all men to me.'

By Megan Carter

Easter Eggs

Though a great success commercially
We ask (if maybe controversially)
Are the lessons of the lectionary
Really found in such confectionary?

By Nigel Beeton

----- ☞ -----

If I were a fish

If I were a fish
I think I would wish
That there wasn't so much rubbish in
the sea.
All those plastic bits -
My guts are having fits!
With all that stuff people dump in
beside me.

By Nigel Beeton

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: 'Apparently they keep on finding bits of plastic inside fish, which we wonderful humans disgorge into the sea in colossal amounts. Recently we've seen plastic bag bans, and drives to stop us using toiletries with plastic beads inside them. I hope that has helped, but we always need to be mindful of the need to be careful.'

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The start of the new cricket season is upon us so it is time to start thinking of warm summer afternoons, the sound of leather on willow and a cool drink under the spreading oak tree. Everyone is invited to the club to spectate and use the facilities in the pavilion. Remember that Whitley is the nearest club for nearly 10 miles where cricket in the ECB Premier League, immediately below County level, can be watched. Ist XI matches start at noon and 2nd XI matches at 12.30. Call in and pick up a full fixture card.

Forthcoming Senior Home Games at Cinder Hill Lane

22 nd April	1 st XI	v	Aston Hall
23 rd April	1 st XI	v	Ossett - Heavy Woollen Cup
29 th April	2 nd XI	v	Sprotbrough
6 th May	1 st XI	v	Tickhill

Contacts

Joe Webster, Secretary: 0114 245 2518

Steve Fletcher, Director of Cricket: 0114 245 2406

Website: www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk

ACR

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Ecclesfield Park Tuesday 11th April 1pm to 3pm

Come and join in the fun
Annual Easter Egg Hunt along with making Easter Crafts
And Multi Sport Activities

£1 per participating child

(Includes Egg Hunt prize, Craft Activities, Multi Sports)

Meet at the Bowling Pavilion
Refreshments will also be on sale

We look forward to seeing you all - www.ecclesfieldpark.co.uk

Contact Numbers for Local Groups 📞

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm
Leader - Debbie
Tel: 07860 471793

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

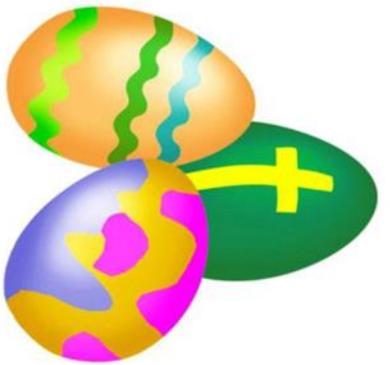
The Grenoside Singers

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



Easter Crafts for Children

For Primary School Children

At St. Mary's Church
Ecclesfield

Easter Crafts for Children 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

On Palm Sunday - 9th April 2017

£2.00 per child.

Please complete a slip and bring it with you to the church if you wish to come to the craft session.

Slips can be obtained from the church or downloaded at our web site:

www.stmaryseclesfield.com

See our Forthcoming Events page.



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Charity Number 518074

