

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February 2017

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# First Words

Here at St Mary's we have lots of weddings and wedding blessings every year - much more than in most Parish Churches these days. While this creates a lot of work and it means that Church is busy on most Saturdays, it is a real privilege to welcome the couples into our Church. It is a privilege to be present and to offer God's blessing and the Church's prayers at the start of so many marriages.

On Saturday 4th Feb and again on Wed 22nd Feb I will be meeting with those who are going to be married here at St Mary's in the coming year for a couple of 'Marriage Preparation' sessions. Please will you pray for all of these couples, and pray for me too.

Later this year - date to be arranged - we will be having a time to meet together to try to discern God's call to us, His Church here in Ecclesfield, for the coming 4 to 6 years. This is not just for the PCC but for every member of our church who wants to be involved. Please look out for more information.

The planning morning will be part of a parish 'week-end at home'. We hope to have some time to relax and spend time together as a Church.

In the run up to the week-end we will be asking every member of St Mary's to ask God to show us His plans and His heart for our Church at this time. St Mary's is not our church it is God's, and its ministry is God's mission of which we are privileged to be a part.

God is a God who speaks and reveals His heart to those who seek Him and who are committed to following His call.

Perhaps in this year we can make Samuel's prayer our own:  
*Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*

**Tim**



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# Thought for the Month

During January I have been spending time in the company of one of the most remarkable women who has ever lived! Julian of Norwich whose book of “Revelations of Divine Love’ was the first book to be written in the English language by a woman.

It is an account of, and a meditation on, her vision of God and His great love. In one of her most well-known visions, she is given an insight into God’s relationship with the whole of His creation:

*In this vision God showed a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed to me, and it was round as a ball. I looked at it with my mind’s eye and thought, “What can this be?” And the answer came ... “It is all that is made.” I wondered how it could last, for it seemed to me so small that it might have disintegrated suddenly into nothingness. And I was answered in my understanding, “It lasts, and always will, because God loves it; ... everything has its being through the love of God.”*

The love of God is what holds us and all creation in existence. It is the most powerful thing in the universe. God’s love is not conditional on our performance or our ‘good behaviour’; it is the free choice of the creator God who loves us into existence.

Julian sees how fragile we are, how small and fragile God’s creation is, but she has confidence and hope despite this because of God’s love.

Each one of us, every person that we love, the whole of God’s creation is small and delicate and fragile, and yet it is also safe and secure because of the great love of God our creator and our Father.

Julian encourages me to face the new year with hope, not because I know that things will work out as I plan and hope, but because I and the people I love and the whole of this wonderful and vast creation are held in hands of love; hands that bear the scars of the nails that tell of the cost of such amazing, divine love.

*Tim*

# Prayer for the month

One of the prayers of the Bible that has sustained my faith in hard times, and has challenged me in easy times is the prayer of Habakkuk.

He lived at the end of the seventh century before Christ when the Babylonians were in power. It was a violent and cruel empire and Habakkuk and his people asked where God was, why did he allow the evil empire to thrive while the righteous suffered.

We have all asked this question, because living by faith is not easy. We don't know what is happening next, things don't often turn out how we want them to - either in our own lives or in the life of the world. Good people suffer - including us!

It is natural to assume that if we are following Jesus and trying to live as God calls us to live, then God will give us favourable treatment. But, as we all know from experience, Jesus' followers don't get preferential treatment.

At times like this Habakkuk is a good companion for the journey.

Most of the prophets in the Bible speak God's word to us, but Habakkuk speaks *our* words to God! As one writer put it, "He gives voice to our bewilderment, articulates our puzzled attempts to make sense of things, faces God with our disappointment with God."

This prophet waits and listens, and his waiting and listening turn to prayer. And in prayer he finds that he trusts in God, even in the darkness, even with his questions. He discovers that this life of trusting God is the full life, the only real life.

## **Here is his prayer:**

*Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vine;  
though the produce of the olive fails  
and the fields yield no food;  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
God, the Lord is my strength.  
(Habakkuk 3:17-19).*

*Habakkuk does not stay with his disappointment and questions. In it all he finds the presence of God with him. And that is enough.*

**Tim**

# On the perils of the Plough Service and the Lamb

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your plans to devise special Services that will involve local industry does you credit, although I cannot imagine what a church decorated with bathroom suites, double glazing frames and airplane wings will look like. Were we to do something similar in this parish, we would have to devise suitable symbols for merchant bankers and property developers. Perhaps wads of banknotes among the flower arrangements may look rather splendid. Our practice is, naturally, to continue with more traditional ways.

We have just had our annual blessing of the plough and new-born lamb. We always have a packed church - mainly of parishioners hoping to see the lamb ruin the Rector's surplice. The only disconcerting part is to be upstaged by the wretched animal as it bleats piteously throughout my carefully crafted sermon, which becomes lost as the congregation wonders if the poor creature may be hungry, or is missing its mother.

The plough always comes from Colonel Wainwright's garden. It stands ornamentally by his lake for eleven months of the year and then rotates round four of our local churches for their services in January. It must be the best blessed, least used plough in the county.

At least this year, I got several of our local farmers to carry it into church. Last year our Verger pushed it up the aisle, accidentally ploughing a perfect furrow along the red Axminster. The sight may have looked all very well in a field, but was not appreciated in the nave. It did, however, provide a worthy project for our Ladies' Guild. They will be much occupied over the coming months knitting tea-cosies and making jam for sales of work before we can replace it.

Our only other occasion when we have animals in church is the Summer Pets Service. Invariably one escapes and our hymn singing gradually disintegrates as the younger members of the congregation try to catch over-enthusiastic dogs chasing cats and rabbits up and down the aisles.

The only true disaster happened some years ago, just after we had restored the organ, adding that splendid trumpet stop. Our organist decided to start the service with a brilliant trumpet fanfare. The drama of the introduction was somewhat spoiled by all the animals in the building simultaneously relieving themselves, out of shock.

Our team of cleaning ladies were much occupied that week - and the congregation, for once, raised no objection when I used lots of incense at the following Sunday's service. So good can come out of evil, after all.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

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## *It's much more than a hearty breakfast...*

Yes Christmas is over, 2017 is here and the sterling work with the homeless by the folk at the Cathedral Archer Project will go on day by day, month by month throughout the year. Way back in December two of us attended their Carol Concert at the Cathedral, lots of people were there, we sang carols, heard the Christmas story, Bishop Tim Ellis preached and we enjoyed piping hot soup, a crusty roll and fellowship afterwards.

At the beginning and at the end of the Service a group called “The Archer Project Singers’ sang for us, and during the service we heard from two men, both now working as volunteers, whose lives have been transformed by the Project. One had been living rough but now, thanks to all the help he has received, is living in the Salvation Army Hostel, working as a volunteer with the Project, singing in the group, and in his own words his life has been turned around because of all the help and care he has received. Then we heard from a man who had been a drug addict but now has a new aim and purpose in life as a volunteer within the project helping others who are struggling as he used to.

Bishop Tim Ellis started his sermon talking about the songs of Bruce Springsteen speaking of the destruction of communities where industries had been closed down. They talk about love, hate, the struggle to know what it is to be human and aspirations. He challenges the philosophy of society. Bishop Tim quoted something which Springsteen said at a concert that really brought this home to him. ‘Nobody wins unless everyone wins’.

Bishop Tim went on to say that the story of Jesus being for all humanity – those who are inspired by the story share their lives for all the world – joy, hope, peace, justice and love.

He posed the question – what allows poverty and hunger to continue in our country – when this happens to one person it happens to all of us.

There is a saying ‘When a butterfly flaps its wings somewhere in the world, a hurricane happens somewhere else. He challenged us to be agents of change. If Jesus as a baby changed the world – we can collectively create a hurricane to end poverty and hunger. A very challenging and thought provoking sermon.

*Continues on page 16*



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# Will You Remember Them - February 2017

## **India - Christian Woman Stripped and Murdered.**

In a climate of growing violence against Christians in India, a Christian woman has been stripped naked, beaten to death, and had her body set on fire by people from her village.

Samari Kasabi (55) was from the village of Dokawaya, District Sukma, Chattisgarh. Her son Sukura's (35) and his family were at church about 8 miles from their village when the attack took place. The villagers had initially been looking for Sukura, and attacked Samari when they discovered he was not there.

Sukura's family are the only Christians in their village. Earlier in 2016, Sukura's family were abducted by Naxalites, a Communist guerrilla group, after the villagers told the militants that Sukura's family were causing trouble. The Naxalites released them after three days when they realised that they were only praying for the sick and needy.

Three Open Doors volunteers visited Sukura after the incident. Sukura's village is very remote and there is no network coverage, so mobile phones do not work in the area. When they spoke to Sukura he was very distressed. He said, "Since the day I came to faith no Christian leader from any place has visited us. This is the first time someone has come and prayed for us. Thank you so much."

Please Pray

- For god's comfort for Sukuma and his family.
- For protection for Christians in central India, where violent persecution is on the rise.

**JD**

*Editor:*

Christianity is India's third-largest religion according to the census of 2011, with approximately 27.8 million followers, constituting 2.3 percent of India's population. Old legends say that Christianity was introduced to India by Thomas the Apostle, who visited Muziris in Kerala in AD 52. There is a general scholarly consensus that Christianity was definitely established in India by the 6th century AD, including some communities who used Syriac liturgically, and it is possible that the religion's existence there extends to as far back as the purported time of St. Thomas's arrival. Christians are found all across India and in all walks of life, with major populations in parts of South India, the Konkan Coast, and Northeast India. Indian Christians have contributed significantly to and are well represented in various spheres of national life. They include former and current chief ministers, governors and chief election commissioners. Indian Christians have the highest ratio of women to men among the various religious communities in India.

## The Churchyard - Issue 2 - First Published August 1961

Editor: This year we will be re-running some of the articles written by F. S. Hague

Quite by accident, but most appropriate, the first stone in my index is that marking the Gatty vault. It is on the left hand side of the path to the Vicarage, garden. Dr. Gatty was the driving force behind the vast changes that took place in the appearance of the Church during the last century. The more one reads of the changes during his 63 years at Ecclesfield the more one understands the reason for the village building a hall in his memory. Of course his interests were not confined to Ecclesfield Church, amongst other things he was an archaeologist and revised Hunter's Hallamshire. His good friend Joseph Hunter was buried a hundred years ago) on 9th May, 1861 in a grave close to the vicarage garden to the north east of the church.

In the Gatty vault we: have a real link with history in Dr. Gatty's father in law the Rev. Alexander, John Scott, D.D. The stone tells us that he was the chaplain to Admiral Lord Nelson on board H.M.S. Victory at the battle of Trafalgar. He is included in the group of people attending the Admiral in the famous painting depicting the death of Nelson. A tableau of this scene can also be seen at Madame Tussaud's in London. Dr. Gatty was influenced by this link as we see from the name of one of his sons Horatio Nelson Gatty.

Apart from this, and of course the War Memorial of the two recent wars, we have few references to earlier wars. One exception is on a stone midway between the west end of the Church and the lych gate which records that George Hawksworth was slain at the battle of Waterloo on the 8th June, 1815 at the age of 29. These few links help to make history more real to us in this modern jet age.

One of the, oldest stones is near to the sun, dial in front of the Church, marking the grave of Vicar Richard Lord who was buried on the 9th July 1600. He was instituted to, the vicarage on the presentation of George, Earl of Shrewsbury, on 8th August, 1585. During his, period of office there was a wave of wanton damage and cruelty that make our present juvenile delinquents angels by comparison. Vicar Lord conducted an inquiry into a long list of misdoings. The main complaint was Richard Wortley, the lord of the manor of Wortley, who had his park walls broken and his game killed. In Ecclesfield two horses were taken from the churchyard and driven down a coal pit where they died. Horses tails were, cut off, sheep and deer killed and sometimes part of the, dead animals were hung in the entrance of Wortley Church. One of the malefactors was Gilbert Dicconson of Barnes Hall which indicates that some at least were not all poor. In later years a Gilbert Dickenson, who was probably the same man in spite of the spelling, was a churchwarden of Ecclesfield representing Grenofirth. (Grenofirth was the name of a large section of the parish)

*F. S. Hague*



## COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3<sup>rd</sup> February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

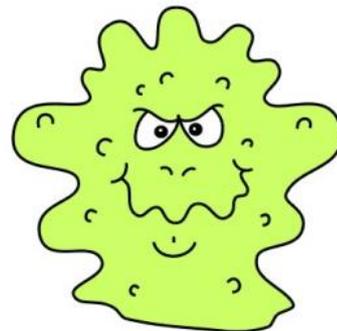


## A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	T	E
L	H	W	L	E	F	F	T	I	L
I	A	I	U	L	V	K	A	S	A
N	N	C	V	E	I	E	O	S	Z
C	K	O	O	E	R	P	R	U	N
T	I	E	O	L	R	U	H	E	E
U	E	S	L	D	D	S	T	S	U
S	W	O	T	E	L	B	A	T	F
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	G	I	N
A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	I

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**What sort of transport gives people colds?**

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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 February 2017

<b>Day and Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	1.00 pm	Mothers' Union meet in the Gatty Hall
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Baptism Service
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting in Church
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Prayer Breakfast in Church
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Baptism Preparation
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union meet at 21 Minster Road
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Living Stones Service
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	Marriage Preparation
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Finance Team Meeting
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Service
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

3 <sup>rd</sup> January	George Elliott Holmes
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Oscar Garratt
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Emmie Rose Pryor
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Albert Stanley Bott Cave
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Harry Jack Culyer

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

### Weddings

22nd December Roger White & Jennifer Lesley Howe

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

### Funerals

10th November	Brian Higgins	85
1st December	Peter Fuller	69
13th December	Kendall Chambers	77

## Funerals continued

28th December	Hilda Parkin	97
4th January	Carole Anne Stocks	69
9th January	Graham Stringer	90
10th January	Maureen (Peggy) Birch	85
23rd January	Sophia Robinson	
31st January	James Coulter	87

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

## Flower Rota February 2017

5th	S. Pratt & K. Bailey	19th	D & J Banham
12th	P. Hawley & J. Hawksworth	26th	J. Sutton & S. Johns



## *It's much more than a hearty breakfast...*

In a way it is easy to support and focus on a project like the Archer Project when it comes to harvest and Christmastime, but the tremendous work they do goes on all year round. It was very evident from all we heard at the Carol Concert that much, much more than a hearty breakfast, hot drinks and food parcels are provided for the many homeless people in our City. Their stories are listened to, they are shown much care and support, are given access to a shower, laundry facilities, and an in-house nurse and dental clinic, computers, telephone and many other things that we take for granted.

We would encourage you to hold the Cathedral Archer Project in your daily prayers, support if you can their fund raising events, or maybe organise your own. On Friday 10th February 2017 they will be holding a 'Wear a Woolly' day. February is a tough month for those on the streets and it is around this time of year that many people need more help from the project. You can show your support by getting everyone to wear their favourite woolly (from hat to socks via jumper). Get your friends involved! A small donation of £1 from everyone taking part can make a huge difference to the homeless and vulnerable. The butterfly flapping its wings!! If we all make a small change just think what can be achieved.

It's a good few months to the 2017 Archer Project Carol Concert but it is well worth attending. It is inspirational, but also empowers your thinking - you can make a difference! If we all take small steps we can create a hurricane.

***PC/KL***

# The Gardening Year – February 2017

Snowdrops and other bulbs in flower is 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. In a hard winter February is often the coldest month in a mild February west to south west winds occur frequently. Preparation of the ground for spring planting can be carried out in February whenever the weather permits. The greatest possible use should be made of any available glass cover making sure the glass is clean so that it admits the maximum possible light. Glass cover will not keep out frost in February in a severe winter but in most years it affords reasonable protection against the night cold. It can also be placed over fallow soil to assist in warming up of the earth so that sowing can take place a week or two earlier.

## **Sow Primulas**

Sow moisture loving Primulas which germinate better after freezing. Fill seed boxes to within  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. of the top with John Innes seed compost. Firm down with the finger especially at the corners and sides and lever off with a board. Sow the seed thinly then cover lightly with finely sifted compost. Water carefully using a can fitted with a fine rose or soak by standing the tray in shallow water, stand the tray outside on a level site in light shade and allow them to freeze but protect them from heavy rain.

## **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 provide a firm settled soil structure beneficial to rooting. Under glass, though most half-hardy annuals are sown in March some require a longer growing period and are sown this month. Bulbs – bring in the last of the bulbs for indoor flowering as they become ready for extra warmth, bulbs which have finished flowering may be planted straight from their containers into odd corners of the garden. If the weather is too wet or cold keep them watered in a frost free greenhouse or frame until planting conditions are more favourable.

## **Vegetables**

Sow seeds of early peas early onwards, any carrots early Nantes, if they can be covered with cloches, if not leave until next month.

*Colin Williams*

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## Miscellaneous observations on life

**We make a living by what we get.** We make a life by what we give. *Duane Hulse*

**We make our friends,** we make our enemies, but God sends our next door neighbour.  
*GK Chesterton*

**I hold it to be a fact,** that if all persons knew what each said of the other, there would  
not be four friends in the world. *Blaise Pascal*

**The secret of happiness is renunciation.** *Andrew Carnegie*

**You cannot find knowledge** by rearranging your ignorance. *Ronald Eyre*



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## Some observations on Love

**In a kiss**, two spirits meet, mingle, and become one. *St Aelred of Rievaulx*

**Don't look around for a life partner**, look UP. Any other choice than God's will mean disaster. *Anon*

**We only deliberately waste time with those we love** – it is the purest sign that we love someone if we choose to spend time idly in their presence when we could be doing something more constructive. *Sheila Cassidy*

**Better a dinner of herbs where love is**, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. *Proverbs 15:17*

**Love of God is the root**, love of our neighbour the fruit of the Tree of Life. Neither can exist without the other, but the one is cause and the other effect. *Archbishop William Temple*

**There is no fear in love**; but perfect love casts out fear. *1 John 4:18*

**As God by creation made two of one**, so again by marriage he made one of two. *Thomas Adams*

**A friend forgives your defects**, and if they are very fond of you, doesn't see any. *Anon*



## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

W	A	G	E		C	L	E	A	N	S	E	D
I		U		B		A		P		E		A
P	L	A	T	E	A	U		R	E	A	D	Y
E		R		L		G		I		P		S
D	I	D	S	O		H	O	L	L	O	W	
O				N		I				R		O
U	N	R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E	D
T		E				G		A				D
	O	F	F	E	R	S		I	S	L	A	M
L		I		X		T		D		A		E
I	S	N	O	T		O	V	E	R	R	A	N
M		E		R		C		D		G		T
B	A	R	R	A	C	K	S		L	E	G	S

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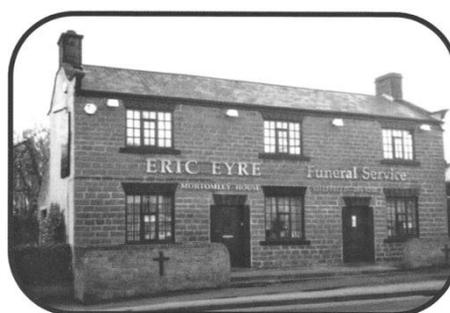
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1989 - 1990



## Saints of the Month

### Kew and the wild boar – 8<sup>th</sup> February

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the ‘Q’ of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, and should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew’s older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of “rare virtue and holiness”. Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

### Scholastica - the persuasive sister – 10<sup>th</sup> February

Scholastica (543) should be the patron saint of any woman who can bend her brother to do her will - no matter how ‘powerful’ that brother might seem to other people.

For Scholastica’s brother was no less than the great monk Benedict, who founded the famous Benedictine order and lived at Monte Cassino. In no way over-awed, Scholastica simply became the first ever Benedictine nun, with a nunnery five miles down the road – at Plombariola.

Now Scholastica greatly enjoyed her annual meetings with her brother at a house nearby, but the time passed too quickly. One year she begged him to stay longer, to discuss “the joys of heaven”, but he refused. So Scholastica took swift action: she prayed up such a mighty thunderstorm that her brother was forced to spend the rest of the night talking to her. Or maybe – she talked and he listened? No one knows for sure.

In any case, Scholastica died happy three days later, and was buried in the tomb Benedict had prepared for himself. She became the patron of Benedictine nunneries.

# Mother's Union

Our first meeting of 2017 was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> when we welcomed our Diocesan President, Pauline Reynolds as our speaker.

Pauline is so well placed to be our President, being so positive and encouraging about the Mother's Union and all that we stand for and all that we seek to do. She emphasised that the base line of our membership is prayer. Our relationship with God being foremost and that only through him can we further the work of the Mother's Union in the world.

Pauline began her talk by giving us a potted version of her life, and there was much identifying with the life she described as a child and young woman – living in Sheffield but with deep roots and relationships in Durham with her grandma. Her parents, her work, her marriage to Jim and their three children and six grandchildren all came alive for us as we listened. Her homes, her church life and her eventual membership of the Mother's Union gave us such a rounded view of the journey God has taken her on to bring her finally to the challenging role of Diocesan President.

She described several statements which people often believe to be about the Mother's Union, saying that the Mother's Union **is most definitely not...**

- A group of women only or a group of married women only.
- A group whose only use in church is to make the tea and cakes.
- A group who have to be mothers or fathers to join.

In contrast Pauline spoke of our millions of members spread over 83 countries seeking to fulfil today the vision which our founder Mary Sumner was given 140 years ago and which is still so relevant and needed today. She spoke of the many projects both locally and abroad which enhance and transform life for so many families.

The Mother's Union is a unique organisation in many ways and as we were reminded of the many works done in our Lord's name to enhance family life, especially for those in need, I for one felt inspired and encouraged to play my part in our work.

Do look on the Sheffield Diocesan Mother's Union website if you can, to see some of the local work which happens so quietly, from arranging holidays for those in such need, to manning a crèche at Doncaster prison and so much more. Mother's Union work abroad has truly transformed needy lives and given worth and meaning to so many by enabling local people – especially through the literacy programme - who then enable others in this project and other projects too numerous to mention here. The national Mother's Union website is enlightening in all of this.

I for one feel that belonging to MU is both a privilege and a joy – perhaps you would find the same if you were to join us?

*JF*

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# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

## Clues Down

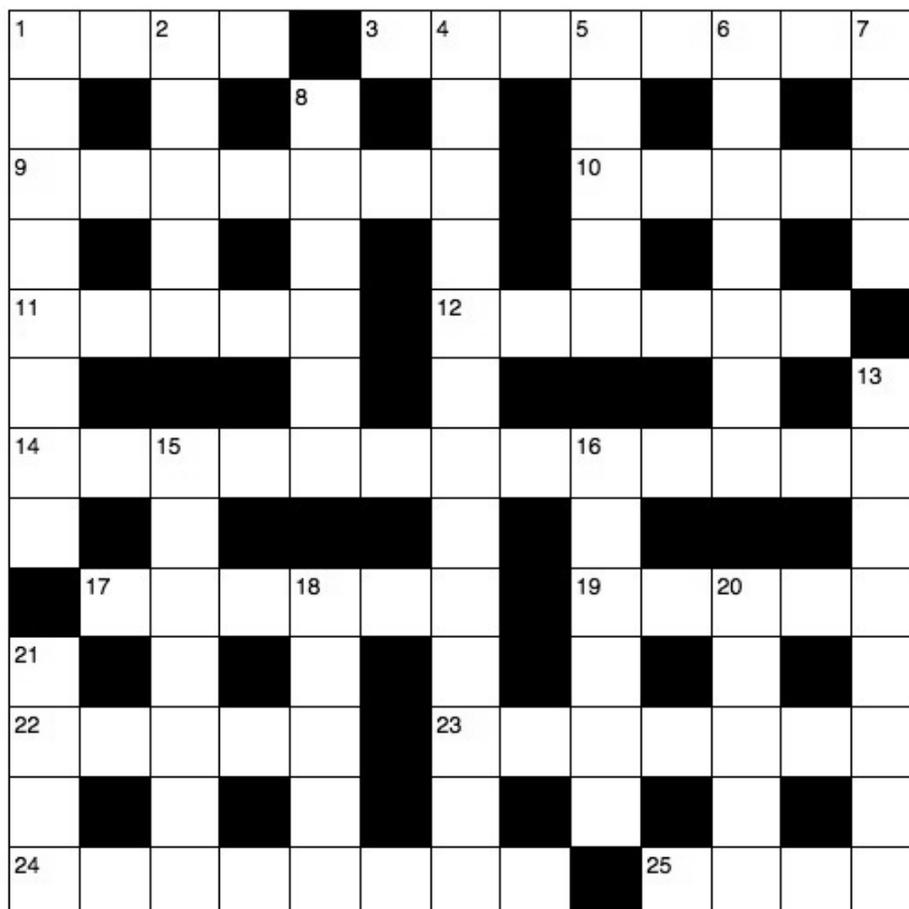
- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)

**18** The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: ‘When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have’ (Luke 10:35) (5)

**20** How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)

**21** For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

Solution is on Page 20



## The Stitcher

Glinting in the lamplight  
The needle sewing thread;  
Outside, it's a damp night  
She's stitching here instead.

Thousands of small crosses  
In colours that are rich  
Made from cotton flosses  
With skill in ev'ry stitch.

Patiently embroidered  
Crafting from the heart  
Then, to be rewarded  
With finely crafted art.

*By Nigel Beeton*

# Prayers and Poems Page

## Prayer of thanks for God's light

Father of all creation,  
Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter.  
Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace.  
In Jesus's name.  
Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

---

## God, our Creator

O shout for Joy across the Earth!  
O shout the glory of the Lord!  
Come, praise Him now for all He's worth!  
Come join our praise in one accord!

Great are the deeds the Lord has done!  
Great are the works that He has made!  
He made the earth, the sky, the sun;  
The mountain and the woodland glade.

The mighty, roaring waterfalls  
The wondrous clouds that bring us rain  
The birds, the beasts, He made them all  
So let us praise His holy name!

He gave us life, He gave us breath,  
He bids the beating of our heart;  
And, when He bids it cease in death  
Then we shall never be apart!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## A Milestone in our History

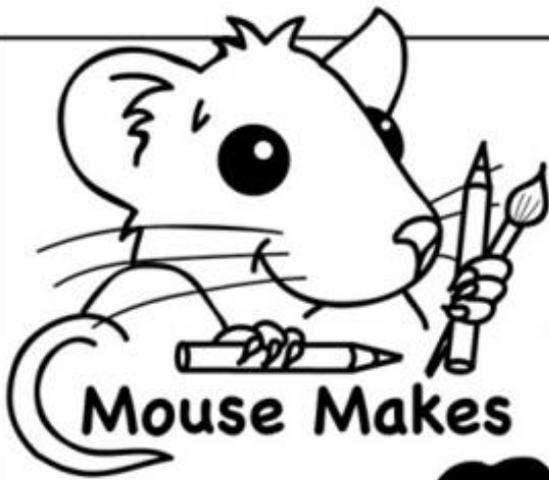
From 6th February 1952  
For threescore years and five,  
Our Queen has ruled this land of ours  
With love, devotion and grace besides.

Her coronation the following year,  
With the Oath and the oil of consecration,  
As St. Edward's crown was placed on her  
head  
Our Queen was anointed to rule this nation

Tudor Elizabeth, Victoria too  
Great queens that ruled this island race,  
But as the longest reigning monarch  
It's Elizabeth II that takes this place.

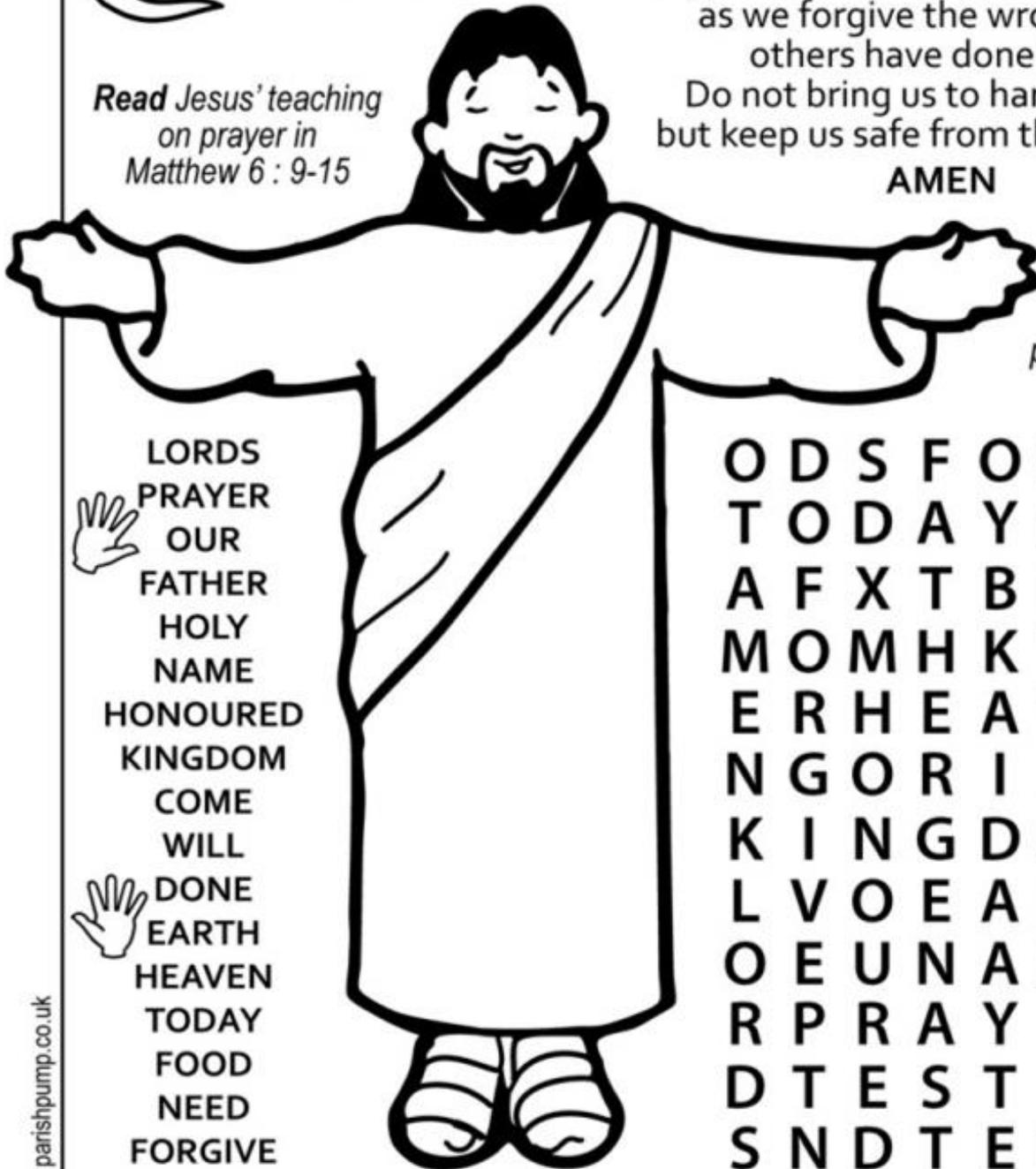
Loved and revered throughout the world,  
Fulfilling her duties with visits of state,  
Wherever she travels her poise and her  
presence  
Has served to make Great Britain – great.

*By Megan Carter*



# Mouse Makes

Read Jesus' teaching  
on prayer in  
Matthew 6 : 9-15



**THE LORD'S PRAYER**  
 Our Father in heaven:  
 May your holy name be honoured;  
 may your Kingdom come;  
 may your will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven.  
 Give us today the food we need.  
 Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
 as we forgive the wrongs that  
 others have done to us.  
 Do not bring us to hard testing,  
 but keep us safe from the Evil One.

**AMEN**

Write a  
prayer of  
praise to God

LORDS  
 PRAYER  
 OUR  
 FATHER  
 HOLY  
 NAME  
 HONOURER  
 KINGDOM  
 COME  
 WILL  
 DONE  
 EARTH  
 HEAVEN  
 TODAY  
 FOOD  
 NEED  
 FORGIVE  
 WRONGS  
 TESTING  
 SAFE  
 EVIL  
 AMEN

O D S F O O D H  
 T O D A Y G C W  
 A F X T B P O R  
 M O M H K V M O  
 E R H E A V E N  
 N G O R I S B G  
 K I N G D O M S  
 L V O E A R T H  
 O E U N A M E O  
 R P R A Y E R S  
 D T E S T I N G  
 S N D T E H L F  
 A E O T V O U R  
 F E N W I L L D  
 E D E H L Y G R

Can you find all  
the words from  
the list in the  
wordsearch?

## 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

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### Ecclesfield Cubs

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Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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Tel: 0114 246 4714  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk)

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

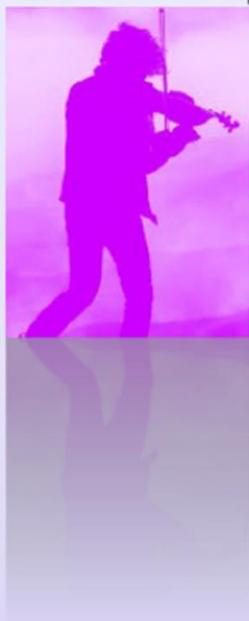
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