

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine December 2020 - January 2021

[www.stmarysecclesfield.com](http://www.stmarysecclesfield.com)

~~Price 60p~~

# First Words

We are out of the second lockdown so worship and meetings can begin again.

In December we celebrate Advent and look forward to Christmas as we do every year, but our celebrations this year will be very different from other years.

On **Thursdays in December at 9.30am** on the Church Facebook page there will be a service of Advent Morning Prayer.

On **Sunday 6th December at 10am** we can meet in Church to celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**. We can accommodate around 60 people in St Mary's.

On **Monday 7th December at 7.30pm** the **PCC** will meet in Church.

On **Wednesday 9th December** there is an opportunity to share in a “**Virtual Quiet Day for Advent**” - The theme is **Advent Hope**, and there will be short services on the Church Facebook page with reflections at 10am, 12 noon and 4pm.

On **Sunday 13th December** we celebrate the **Third Sunday of Advent**, with a service of **Holy Communion at 10am**, and at **6pm** we will gather (socially distanced) in the Churchyard for **Carols around the Tree**.

On **Sunday 20th December at 10am** we will celebrate the **Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10am**.

Between 11am and 12 noon Christingles can be collected from Church along with an order of service.

**The Christingle Service** will be on the **Church Facebook Page at 4pm**.

On **Christmas Eve at 4pm** on the **Church Facebook Page** there will be a **Crib Service** for younger children,

**and at 6.30pm** we will have a service of **Nine Lessons and Carols**. ***We can accommodate up to 60 people and places must be booked in advance.***

On **Christmas Day** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** in Church at **10am**.

On **Sunday 27th December** at 10am there will be a said service at **10am**.

We will celebrate **Epiphany** on **Sunday 3rd January 2021 at 10am**.

Please note there will not be a morning service on Thursday 7th January.

On **Monday 11th January at 7.30pm** there will be a **PCC Meeting** in Church.

God Bless  
Tim

Clicking on images and links in the online magazine may tell you more...

# Andrew Jones

## Tui Na Massage & Acupuncture

Treating all types of pain, stress and discomfort

Kinetic Clinic  
The Old Griffin Pub  
8 Townend Road  
Ecclesfield



British  
Acupuncture  
Council Member

Mob: 0753 806 5665



andrewjoneshealth@gmail.com

[www.acupunctureandmassage.net](http://www.acupunctureandmassage.net)



## Piano Lessons



Take Exams or play for fun.

Theory up to Grade 5 beginners welcome.

Alison Hancock – ☎ 0114 245 2780

## *Yorke Salon*

Ladies and Gents Hair Salon

Monday	8:30am to 11am	Thursday	9am to 12am -- 1pm to 5pm Nicole
Tuesday	Closed	Friday	9am to 12am -- 1pm to 6pm Nicole
Wednesday	9am to 12am	Saturday	8:30am to 12am

315 High Street Ecclesfield S35 9NB  
Salon Telephone: 0114 246 7762



# Prayer for the Month

*Keep us, O Lord,  
while we tarry on this earth,  
in a serious seeking after you,  
and in an affectionate walking with you,  
every day of our lives;  
that when you come,  
we may be found not hiding our talent,  
nor serving the flesh,  
nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,  
but waiting and longing for our Lord,  
our glorious God for ever. Amen.  
(Richard Baxter 1691)*

Richard Baxter's prayer is suitable for the coming season of Advent -the start of a new Church year. This year Advent Sunday is on 29th November, and although our celebrations this year will not be what we would want them to be, we will still be keeping this, the start of a new year.

As we think about the coming year we long and pray for a better year than this one. We hope to be able to live 'normal lives', to travel, to take holidays; to see family and friends again. We long to sing again and to meet up with unmasked faces. that surely is our hope and prayer for the coming year.

Baxter, in his prayer, reminds us that our calling is the same every year, whatever blessings or hardships that year may hold for us. As I pray Baxter's prayer, it tells me that my most basic and fundamental calling in 2021 will be exactly the same as it was in 2020 and in 2019.

It is to walk faithfully with Christ every day of my life, to be faithful when life is easy and when times are hard; to be faithful in every situation and all circumstances.

As Christians we live each day and year in the hope of the kingdom of God and in the expectation of the return of Christ. In Advent we prepare for Christmas by remembering the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, and we also look forward to His return as Lord and King, on a day that no one knows or can foretell. The best way to keep Advent, the best way to live out our calling as Christians, is to live as if this might be the day when Christ returns, when perfect justice will sweep through this earth, when broken hearts will be mended and tears wiped away.

Advent reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage through this world and this present life, but that our true and eternal home is in God's kingdom. May we be given the strength and the grace to live every day of our lives - whatever that day may bring, in the light of God's kingdom and in the hope of Christ's return. **Amen**

# Celebrating Christmas in 2020

We cannot have the Christmas that we would like in 2020. There will be services in Church, but numbers are restricted, and we have to be socially distanced from our friends. Some of the services will be on Facebook only; but here are some suggestions for celebrating the Birth of Christ at home this year:

Collect one of the special "Comfort and Joy" booklets - perhaps you could take one to a friend or family who would appreciate it.

Why not draw or paint a picture representing your favourite carol and display it in your window - share some Christmas hope around the neighbourhood. Some people are planning to paint stones with a Christmas scene and leave them around the parish for others to enjoy - could you do that?

Join in one of the services on the Church Facebook page:

The Christingle Service is on Sunday 20th December at 4pm, and the Crib Services is on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

## Christmas Services at St Mary's 2020

### **Sunday 13th December**

#### **4pm Carols round the Tree**

Socially Distanced 30 min service - with choir & if weather allows piano.

### **Sunday 20th December**

#### **4pm Christingle Service** - service on the Church Facebook page.

Christingles can be picked up from St. Mary's on Sunday 20th December between 11am and 12 noon.

### **Thurs 24th December Christmas Eve**

#### **4pm Crib Service** - service on the Church Facebook page.

#### **6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols.**

Up to 60 people - **Ticketed**.

### **Fri 25th December Christmas Day**

10am Eucharist to celebrate Christ's birth.

Up to 60 people.

*Tickets - Places can be booked for the Nine Lessons and Carols from Monday 14th December to Thursday 17th December during office hours on 0114 2570002.*

# God and The Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess concludes his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers a 13th century painting by Gerald of Wales.*

## **He gave us eyes to see them: St Kevin of Glendalough and the blackbird**

During this year we have explored the beauty and wonder of our world in the rich variety of all creatures great and small. In the months of lockdown and restrictions, many of us have used the time to look afresh at the world of Nature and have learnt to value it once again.

When we look at the life of the 6th century Irish hermit saint, Kevin of Glendalough, we see someone who had that special relationship with the birds and animals. An otter, the wolf and a wild boar were his co-hermits.



We are told that during Lent as he was kneeling in prayer in his cell, he held his arm out of the window. A blackbird mistook the arm for the branch of a tree and built its nest in the saint's hand. The saint waited until the eggs were laid and hatched and the fledglings had flown.

One of the earliest depictions of this story is a marginal drawing in *The History of Ireland* by Gerald of Wales in the early 13th century and now in the British Library. He visited Ireland several times and was entranced by the marvels he saw and the tales he heard. To accompany the story of St Kevin, an unknown artist drew the saint sat in his cell, cradling the blackbird gently in his left hand. Seamus Heaney captured the story in a poem in which he wondered if the saint was self-forgetful in all those months or perhaps in agony. The poet praises St Kevin because he sought no reward, but offered time and patience to care for this sign of new life.

So much has happened to us during this year for good and ill, and we wonder what the new year will bring. Perhaps St Kevin can inspire us to journey with faith and hope, and to travel through the months ahead with a renewed concern for the created order around. The Gaelic name Kevin means loved. Like him, we pray that we will love and cherish this planet, and care for the wonder and beauty of birds like the blackbird and all the animals. Then we can rejoice with him in the wonder of Creation that displays the handiwork of God the Creator.

## Food Bank – A sweet Christmas

It hasn't been easy getting food bank donations to St Mary's as we were not encouraged to enter the church during the lockdown and building works.

It is possible to take things to St. Pauls on Wednesday mornings, and I thought it would be a nice idea if individuals and families might like to give a box of sweets for each of the families who use the food bank.

Katherine says there are about 40 families being supported each week.

As we expect to be in Church during December, I will happily collect any donations and take them to St Pauls before Christmas.

Thank you in anticipation - Norma Priest

## Ecclesfield Library

Run by Volunteers

WE WILL REOPEN ON FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER



Our opening times are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
from 10am – 12noon for book lending and returns

Why not call in and check out the range of new books on our shelves courtesy of the local Co-op Community Fund and Co-op Members.

The safety and well-being of our volunteers and library users is important to us so, we have a one way system in place, social distancing rules and track & trace apply, face coverings, unless exempt, should be worn and hand sanitiser will be provided. We request that book browsing is kept to a minimum and all books returned now go into quarantine for 7 days before going back on to our shelves.

We look forward to welcoming you back into the library

# St James the Least of All

## On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



# Help needed in the church garden

If you can, mow, weed, strim, sweep, pickup sticks, rake leaves or drive a sit on mower, we need you. If you can spare just one or two hours a week it would be a great help. Not only will the church look good, but you might even feel your spiritual and physical well-being improve and in our small way help the environment. We come to the churchyard every Tuesday and Friday afternoon (weather permitting) followed by a drinks and biscuits, sometimes even a cake.  
Any help most welcome. Thank you. Pat Wood

## *A. J. Hurdley - Opticians*

NHS and Private Eye Examinations  
Spectacles at Sensible Prices  
125 High Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9UA  
☎ 0114 246 8127

**Transitions**  
ADAPTIVE LENSES

enquiries@ajhurdleyopticians.co.uk

## Don't wait for the signs call today



### To us, it's personal ...

Home Instead Senior Care provides award winning, tailor-made, flexible care.

We are changing the UK's attitude to care and ageing with our distinctive approach to supporting people at home.

**You can't always be there but we can.  
For more information please contact our North Sheffield Office on**

**0114 246 9666**

**or visit our website:**

**<https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/sheffield-north/about-us>**

**Home Instead**  
SENIOR CARE  
*to us, it's personal.*

HEMOCARE THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE QUEEN!

We are delighted to receive the Queen's Award for Innovation in recognition of our quality care



## Pastoral Care

After almost 25 years I have decided to step down from being your pastoral worker. Thank you for letting me into your homes to share in your ups and downs, it has been a privilege.

Mostly I want to give a really big thank you to all the lay Pastors who over the years have loved and cared for all of us. Without them we could not have done this important work, thank you.



Throughout the years and particularly this year of difficulty, the pastoral team have been outstanding, keeping in touch with everyone and helping out where they were able to do, safely. In my eyes you are all heroes.

For those who need pastoral care, please do speak to your lay pastors or Tim, I will of course keep you all in my prayers.

The role of Pastoral work can add real value to the church and if anyone feels that it is a calling that they would like to consider then please feel free to speak to Tim or me.

**God Bless, Pat Wood**

# Build a brighter future for your child

Kip McGrath's qualified teachers create individual tutoring programmes for your child, using proven Kip McGrath methods of tuition.



☒ **Maths**    ☒ **Reading**  
☒ **English**    ☒ **Spelling**  
☒ **Comprehension**

**Call today  
for a FREE  
assessment**

**Sheffield North**

**01442 570 777**

Office 12, Haywood House, Hydra Business Park, Nether Lane, Ecclesfield S35 9ZX

**Kip McGrath™**  
**EDUCATION CENTRES**  
[kipmcgrath.co.uk](http://kipmcgrath.co.uk)





**On behalf of Tim and the Finance Team**  
we would like to thank you all for your generous giving and donations during this difficult year for both the upkeep and running of the church and towards the disabled access project.

Wishing you all a Happy  
and Peaceful Christmas  
Time and hope for a  
brighter 2021



## The Children's Society Report

I would like to thank everyone for their help this year during the two lockdowns which we are still experiencing. If you have a Box and I have not been in touch please could you empty it and either bring it to me or give me a ring and I will collect it, please put your name inside the money bag..

**The  
Children's  
Society**

**No child  
should feel  
alone**

Because we were unable to have a Coffee Morning this year, I did a Sponsored Walk round Ecclesfield Park which raised £400.00p this was a wonderful effort thank you.



On the 13th December the Children's Society are doing a virtual Christingle online which will be fun for the children. I am having the information cards on how you can watch this event printed and they will be available shortly. At the time of going to press we do not know what is happening with our own Christingle, so keep looking out for information.

Whatever happens this Christmas we can make it just as wonderful as it always is, thinking of you all.

**With love Pat**

# Thought for the Month

Although our celebrations this year, both at home and in Church, will not be what we are used to, nor will they be what we would wish, but we will still celebrate Christmas. We will in the midst of the global pandemic, celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

Our circumstances may have changed in 2020, but the message of Christmas has not. At the heart of the Christmas story is the humility of God.

One of the earliest Christian hymns was written before AD 60, less than 30 years after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. It is quoted by St Paul in a letter written from prison in Rome to the Church in the city of Philippi. The hymn begins in this way, it speaks of Christ who

*“... was in the form of God,  
but He did not cling to equality with God.  
He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant,  
and was born in our human likeness...”*

In Jesus God meets us without the anger or threat with which so many religions portray Him. In Jesus God comes to us as a child, born in poverty. No room was found for Him at His birth, and before His second birthday, He was being hunted by men of power and violence.

At Christmas we remember that God came to us in our flesh and blood. He came as our Saviour to bring the hope of God's eternal kingdom. He came not just to speak of the love of God, but to demonstrate it, sharing the love and joy, the pain and sorrow of our life. In Jesus God became a mortal human so that in and through Him we could become divine.

Christmas tells us that even in lockdown, even separated from those we love, we are not and never will be alone. Christmas tells us that God in Christ is with us and for us. He comes to us, not just as the World's Saviour, but as our Saviour - yours and mine.

He comes to heal, not just humanity, but to bring healing to you and to me. In Christ our sins, our brokenness and our flaws are redeemed and healed. In Jesus we are filled with the Holy Spirit and we are adopted as God's children.

However we celebrate Christmas in 2020, we can know that nothing in all creation - not even a global pandemic - can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In Christ God has reached out to us, bridging the gulf that lies between us, so that the ancient prophecy of Immanuel, God-with-us, may be fulfilled.

May Christ who was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago be born again in our hearts this Christmas. **Amen.**

God bless,  
Tim



# Ecclesfield Park

ECCLESFIELD, S35



## Get Involved!

Sheffield City Council's Parks and Countryside Service are consulting on potential changes that can be made to improve Ecclesfield Park. We'd love you to join this conversation by completing the online survey to share your views and opinions on how you use this space and how you'd like it to develop. By getting involved you'll help us to deliver improvements that meet the needs of the community.



N.B. This survey is being progressed online due to the current national Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and the resultant social distancing guidance.



**Survey closes**  
31st January 2021

**To get involved we'd really appreciate if you could complete our online survey by scanning the QR code above or by going to:**

<https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/place-planning-1/ecclesfieldpark>



If you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch with us either by phone 0114 250 0500 or email [parksandcountryside@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:parksandcountryside@sheffield.gov.uk)



@SheffieldParks



@ParksSheffield



@ParksSheffield





# Editor's Lockdown Humour

click on links and pictures

Germany is now advising people to stock up on cheese and sausages. This is called the [Wurst Käse](#) scenario...

If at the end of this second lockdown you could choose between a foreign holiday with your other half or a night out for two with [wine](#), [steak](#) and [all the trimmings](#), what would be your choice? **A** - Well Done, **B** – Medium, **C** Medium Rare, or **D** Rare

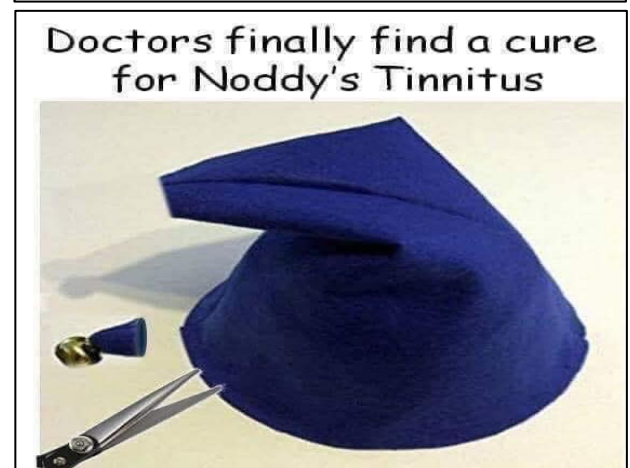
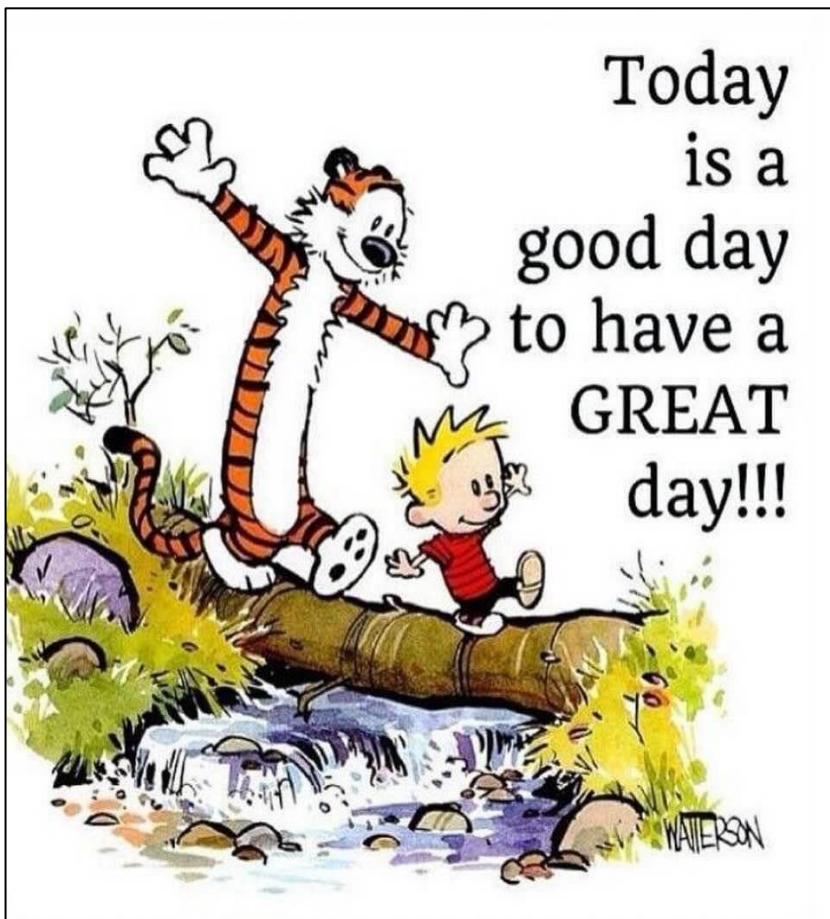
Don't let them take your [temperature](#) when going into the supermarket! It's a scam! They are erasing your memory! I went in for [bread](#) and [milk](#) and came out with six bottles of [wine](#)...

No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn Keeper has shut under tier 3 Regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Donner and Blitzen. As for [Rudolph](#), with that red nose, he really should be isolating and taking a test.

I've learned 2 very important lessons in my life. I can't [recall](#) the first one, but the second one is that I need to start [writing](#) things down...

Life is the most difficult exam. Many people fail because they try to copy others, not realising that everyone has been set a different question paper.

[Books](#) are better than [TV](#)...If you fall asleep whilst reading you don't miss the ending...



# From the Registers

## Funerals

Tuesday 3rd November      Dorothy Joan Hague      96

Thursday 26th November      Raymond George Gregory      82

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

## The Story is still the same!

*by Canon Paul Hardingham*

‘Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!’ That’s the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: ‘Hey, you turned off Jesus.’ Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.’ (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.’ (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God’s peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, ‘Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.’

# A 35 Year Long Disabled Access Project!

The present church in Ecclesfield is based on a 12<sup>th</sup> century building which had some major changes in the years 1470 to 1500. And the current project underway at the church has taken almost longer than those 15<sup>th</sup> century alterations!

Let me explain. When I arrived back in Ecclesfield in the mid-1980s, following a period working and living in London, one of the hot topics at church was to provide access for people with mobility problems. At that time, the church acquired two wheelchairs and had a ramp made of wood and steel erected at the main south porch entrance. The ramp was intended to be a temporary affair while a more permanent access was planned.



*The Great West Door before the external work started*

Over the past 35 years, practically every option of creating a permanent access for people with mobility problems has been considered. These have included:

- using the small south door entrance, creating a new entrance to the north of the building, raising the path from the Lych gate to the steps at the front (with major re-landscaping), using electric hoists and lifts outside and inside the building, creating long ramps outside the building and inside the building and even a device which would climb up the front steps!

Until recently, no solution had been found which offered equal access to and use of the church building for all, irrespective of ability or disability and would also comply with current legislation. Meeting the needs of all users including access for prams, children's buggies, wheelchairs, and electric mobility devices, and which would be acceptable at a treasured Grade 1 listed building.

So, the immediate question must be, why has this taken so long? Well, the main challenge is the slope of the land on which Ecclesfield Church stands. A ramp for disabled access must slope by no more than 1:12 and the land at the church already slopes by this amount. So, the front of the church is something like 1 metre above ground level and the back of the church is 1 metre below ground level. In addition, the path from the main entrance to the Lych gate rises by almost 2 metres as it reaches the road.

Finally, after all this time, a solution has been found that has been discussed with all the relevant planning and conservation authorities over a period of 18 months, and the proposals were published for comment with public notices at the very beginning of 2020.



The existing path to the “Great West Door” will be lowered so that it is level with the church floor. Inside, the steps at the back of the church will be removed and the font, which has only been in its current position for around 40 years, will be re-located to the south transept.

The wooden doors will be replaced with new wood and glass doors that are electrically powered and open outwards. There will also be an internal porch and a new pair of electrically powered doors that will open into the church. Those of you with sharp eyes will have spotted that this work is already in progress. Not surprisingly, the project is more complex than this simple summary and involves careful excavation in case there are buried remains affected and some work to ensure the foundations of the church are not compromised. But there is every confidence that the result will be well worth the wait.



*Inside the Church at the back before work commenced*



*How the porch will look inside the church*

So, how much will this cost? It is not a low-cost project! The overall price is expected to £85,000 plus VAT (we should be able to recover most of the VAT paid from the government). So far, grants and donations amount to just over £40k and the church is using reserves to enable the bills to be paid. But there is a need to raise up to £40k via other grants and public donations.

You can help by donating using the QR code below, by using the PayPal Donate Now button or by sending a cheque to:

**Revd. Dr. Tim Gill, 230 The Wheel, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S35 9ZB**

Please make your cheque payable to Ecclesfield PCC

If you need a receipt, please enclose an envelope with your name and full address on the front - thank you



As work progresses, we will keep you up to date.

*Andrew Robinson*

# God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

## Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!

## Saint of the month - 17th December: Eglantyne Jebb founder of 'Save the Children'

Here is a modern-day saint whose compassion and determination has saved literally millions of lives.

[Eglantyne](#) did not begin as an obvious 'mover and shaker' of people. Born in Shropshire in 1876, she grew up in Ellesmere, studied history at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, taught at Marlborough, and then resigned as she was not physically robust.



Eglantyne moved to live with her mother in Cambridge, and it would have been so easy to settle for a life of peaceful obscurity. But she was a Christian, and at Oxford she had developed a passion for social concerns, so this compassion now drove her to take action. She began in 1906 by publishing research on the poverty she'd found in Cambridge.

Then in 1912 the Balkan Wars broke out, and Eglantyne left Cambridge for Macedonia. Her months among the refugees led her to decide that long-term constructive aid was more effective than short-term handouts. The First World War left Eglantyne horrified by the prolonged Allied blockade on Germany and Austria-Hungary, which even after Armistice meant starvation for millions of civilians, especially children. And so in 1919 Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton helped found the 'Fight the Famine' Council, which wanted to end the blockade and establish a League of Nations.

One day during a rally in Trafalgar Square, Eglantyne was arrested for distributing a leaflet showing starving children which read: "Our blockade has caused this – millions of children are starving to death." She ended up in court and was fined, but the judge was so impressed with Eglantyne's commitment to children that he himself paid her fine. His money became the first donation to Save the Children, the new charity just set up by Eglantyne and Dorothy.

Save the Children was officially launched at the Albert Hall in May 1919, with the aim of helping the starving civilians of central Europe. It was a success, raising £400,000 in that first year alone.

When in the autumn of 1921 Russia was facing famine, Save the Children chartered a cargo ship, the SS Torcello, to carry 600 tons of lifesaving food and medical supplies to Russia – saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

By 1922 Save the Children had become one of Britain's biggest charities. Eglantyne's Declaration of the Rights of the Child, written in 1923, was adopted by the League of Nations the following year. The present-day UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is derived from it.

But ten years of running Save the Children had sapped Eglantyne's fragile strength, and she died in Geneva in 1928, aged only 52.

## Foodbank at St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue – Update

Firstly, I would like to say a massive thanks to the congregation at St Mary's for their amazing generosity since the recommencement of the collections in church. When I went to pick up the donations follow the Harvest service, I was really humbled by the generous gifts. I needed help carrying it all to the car. Be assured, you are making a huge difference to the people who use the foodbank.

It has been lovely to see some of you, who have come to the foodbank during the second lockdown, to drop off donations. Thank you so much from everyone at both St Paul's and the S6 foodbank.

A lot has been happening at the foodbank since I last wrote in the magazine. In October, St Paul's PCC took the decision, to partner with the S6 on a permanent basis, to run the foodbank out of the church hall. It was a difficult decision with robust discussions. One of the concerns was how we were going to manage to use the church hall for activities as well as storing two weeks-worth of food. This is still be explored, the church hall is not in the best condition and adaptations will have to be made, as well as a lot of cleaning and decorating.

The Parson Cross Initiative ([PXI](#)), who were previously running the foodbank out of Mount Tabor Methodist Church were involved in the discussions. They wanted to explore different ways of helping people in need in the area. They have very recently gone into partnership with Food Works, Sheffield (formerly the Real Junk Food Project). Food Works saves food from being wasted and cooks it into frozen ready meals (delicious I'm told). These are being made available at Mount Tabor for a minimum of £1 donation per meal. More information see:

<https://thefoodworks.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/pxiprojects>

I have recently been reading Bruce Springsteen's autobiography and have become more and more interested in the lyrics of the songs and the inspiration behind them. In his songs he speaks of the devastation of communities where industries are shut down. They explore love and hate, the struggle to know what it is to be human, aspirations crushed by circumstances. He challenges the philosophy of society.

One thing that Bruce Springsteen used to say at his concerts during the 80s was 'Nobody wins unless everyone wins'.

What would society be like if everyone believed that? There would be no need for foodbanks! As we approach Christmas, we are looking for joy, hope, peace, justice and love. Jesus came for all. Mary in the [Magnificat](#) spoke of the hungry being filled.

Continues on page 21



# Ecclesfield Carols – Virtual Sings



**Thursdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December 2020  
Starting at 8pm**

The tradition of singing local carols has thrived in the Sheffield area, especially in pubs, for two or three centuries and most of the carols pre-date the well-known 'conventional' carols

Normally we would be singing the Ecclesfield Carols in the Black Bull where we have been for the last 70 years, but this year we will be meeting via Zoom instead

You are very welcome to join us and there is no charge for participating.

To join please [click here if reading online](#) and we'll send you the Zoom links and words to the carols.

Alternatively visit [localcarols.org.uk](http://localcarols.org.uk) for more information on all this year's virtual local carol sings, where you will also find a link to join the Ecclesfield sings.

You can also contact us by emailing [ecclesfieldcarols@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldcarols@gmail.com)

Hopefully next year the local carols will be back in their rightful place, in the community and in the pubs!

Crossword Puzzle



Solution is here

# Foodbank at St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue – Update

*Continued*

When people are in need, it matters to us – so what allows hunger to continue in our city and our country. People who live just down the road!

More and more I believe that we must become agents of change, to campaign for a fairer society.

[Dom Helder Camara](#), a former Archbishop of Recife in Brazil, famous once said:

“When I feed the poor, they call me a saint, but when I ask why the poor are hungry, they call me a communist.”

It is still true. For me lockdown has highlighted, and widened, the gap between those who are advantaged by society and those who are disadvantaged. I pray that with campaigning and lobbying of government (which I fully intend to continue with) it is not always the case. I hope that is your prayer too and maybe, just maybe, we can become agents of change.

Donations of food can be taken to St. Paul's on Wednesdays 9am to 12-noon and on Fridays 10am to 1pm. To donate money to the S6 foodbank visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/philadelphianetwork/s6foodbank>

**‘Nobody wins unless everyone wins’** - In case you don't know the story – during the Born in the USA tour, Springsteen often repeated that phrase and asked everyone to bring canned goods to his concerts to be distributed to the local food banks. In 1984, that was novel.

Katharine Lonsborough

## We Clean Ovens

Call us today to have  
your cooking appliances  
sparkling, using our  
own eco friendly products.

- **Range & Aga Specialists**
- Ovens & Hobs
- Extractor Hoods
- Microwave Ovens
- Traditional Stoves

**...so you don't have to!**

**oven**   
oven valeting service  
Local | National | Affordable

**0114 437 2567**  
**ovenusheffieldsoutheast.co.uk**



# The Gardening Year – December 2020 – January 2021

This year I shall be writing about container growing your fruit, vegetables and herbs in pots and baskets. Just because you may not have a traditional vegetable plot does not mean you should miss out on the thrill and satisfaction of growing your own food. Container gardening is accessible to anyone regardless of age or physical ability. The food you grow will rack up no air or road miles from pot to plate, so is good for the environment too. And best of all you will enjoy the unbeatable taste of freshly picked produce straight from your garden. Getting started – Container growing does require some input, and it pays to think in advance about what you will need. This chapter will help with the planning process. You should take into account your budget, the amount of growing space available to you, the light requirements of your plants and the need for good quality compost, suitable gardening materials and an accessible water supply for your crops.

**What to grow** – This is an important chapter, as a first time or enthusiastic gardener it is easy to become carried away and grow things that are not part of your food repertoire. While it is great to experiment, it is best to plan what to plant around what you really eat and what you have the time and space to grow. This way you will save money and ensure you have a ready supply of produce to supplement your weekly menu. Skim through it at your peril.

**Prepare to Grow** – Before embarking on your growing bonanza you will need all the basics, pots and containers, seeds, tools, and compost. In this chapter I will run through the pros and cons of the different sorts of gardening kit available to ensure you buy only what is necessary and best suited to your growing space and requirements. Helping you see what to expect from your garden and what your garden expects from you, season to season.

**How to Grow** – after all the preparation this is where you can finally get stuck in. In this chapter I will give you straight forward, practical advice about when to plant, how to sow your seed, how to care for your seedlings, how to know when to transplant, harden off, planting out, feeding and watering. I will also show you how you can lengthen your growing season through the use of cloches, polytunnels, fleeces, and may I wish all our readers, and all at St Mary's, A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. **Colin Williams**

## Eat the Seasons – December

**Vegetables** - Beetroot, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Horseradish, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Truffles (Black), Truffles (White), Turnips, Wild Mushrooms

**Fruit** - Apples, Clementines, Cranberries, Passion Fruit, Pears, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Satsumas, Tangerines

**Herbs** - Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Walnuts

**Meat** - Duck, Goose, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison

**Fish** - Clams, Cod, Coley, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Plaice, Red Mullet, Scallops (Queen), Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Skate, Turbot, Winkles

Visit - [www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk)



# Christmas: Celebrating the Incarnation

*The Revd Dr Roger Roberts considers Christmas...*

C.S. Lewis called it the Grand Miracle and the Central Miracle. He noted that “Every other miracle prepares for this, exhibits this, or results from this...The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depend on their relations to the Grand Miracle.”

So if you can believe in Christmas – the incarnation of the Son of God: the Grand, the Central Miracle, you should have no problem believing the miracles in the Old Testament narratives or the miracle of the Virgin Birth, the miracles Jesus performed of feeding the multitudes, of His healing the sick, raising the dead, walking on water and calming the storms. You also need have no problem in believing in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and His ascension back into the heavenly realms, where He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In other words, to believe the essence of the Christmas story is to believe the miracle that will open the pathway to faith and eternal life, a life of following this risen Jesus as your Lord. To understand and believe the truth of the Incarnation will not only transform your idea of Christmas—it will change your life now and your everlasting destiny.

## Peter Haigh & Sons Funeral Directors

An independent family business serving all areas of Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham. Having over 35 years' experience in the funeral profession



99 Cross Hill  
Ecclesfield  
Sheffield  
S35 9WR

Tel: 0114 245 7913

[www.peterhaighandsons.co.uk](http://www.peterhaighandsons.co.uk)



See our informative website for information regarding how we can help, and what we can offer you, in your time of need

Our Simple Dignified Funeral. Hearse, limousine and coffin £1, 600, plus third-party costs (Disbursements)

‘Let our family look after yours’



# Crampton & Moore

Established Retailer in Audio, Video and Electrical Goods

**Instore - 109, High Street, Ecclesfield, S35 9XA**

**Online - [www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk](http://www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk)**

**Telephone - 0114 246 7635**

**We specialise in Plasma and LED Televisions, and now have an extensive range of white goods and Domestic Appliances on display in our new showroom.**

**Come in today and speak to our in-store experts**

**Low Prices - Quality Service - Over 40 Years of Experience**

**SONY**

**SAMSUNG**

**Panasonic**  
ideas for life



**BOSCH**

**LG**

**Hotpoint**

## Lyncham Cocker Spaniels

Yorkshire Terriers & Toy Poodles

Puppies sometimes available

We also have Cockerpoos & Yorkipoos

Chapelton - Sheffield - South Yorkshire

Phone: 0114 245 5322 - Mobile: 0795 268 8420

Website: [www.lyncham9.co.uk](http://www.lyncham9.co.uk) - Email: [lyncham9@hotmail.com](mailto:lyncham9@hotmail.com)

Fully Licensed

## ST. MICHAEL DRY CLEANERS LTD

54, St. Michaels Road, Ecclesfield, Nr. Sheffield.

Dry Cleaning, Laundry, Quilts

Football Kits, Work Wear, Horse Rugs.

Free Collection and delivery (Same day if required)

Telephone: (0114) 246 7624

## Mothers' Union

Dear Members

It almost goes without saying that we have been unable to meet over the last few months. The Committee have decided that we will try and resume our monthly meetings with the AGM in January 2021. But who knows what the winter months may hold in store for the pandemic.

Annual subscriptions are due again in January 2021 and have risen to £23.00. The £23.00 will now include a twice-yearly magazine that will replace Families First, which until now has always been an additional subscription, which Norma Priest has kindly organised for some of us. The Families Worldwide Magazine which includes the Prayer Diary will also be included for all members and will be published towards the end of each year.

I shall be collecting the £23.00 in January 2021. Unfortunately with the closure of most of the banks in the area I am unable to accept cash. So, it is cheques only please, made payable to St Mary's Ecclesfield Mothers' Union. All monies must be in by the middle of February please. If you wish to pay in instalments, that is fine, just have a word with Stephanie Hartshorne or myself.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe winter. Jennifer Armeson – Treasurer Tele: 0114 245 6065

## Message from Sylvia Charles

Hi Everybody, the following message has been sent by Sylvia Charles, our Deanery Leader for you all.

Dear Members

I wanted to wish you all a healthy and peaceful Christmas. It will be different for so many of us, but the main thing is to remain safe and stay well. We will hopefully have other Christmas' where we can be together with our families.

My daughter reminded me of the very first Christmas - Mary and Joseph all alone in the stable and welcoming the baby without family and friends.

They managed the first Christmas all alone and we can manage this one too! Nothing can spoil or take away the joy of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour!

With love to you all, God Bless - Sylvia xx

May I also add my Christmas Greetings to you all - praying for better things in 2021. Peace and joy and all blessings of Christmas to you all.

Much Love - Stephanie x

# ERIC EYRE

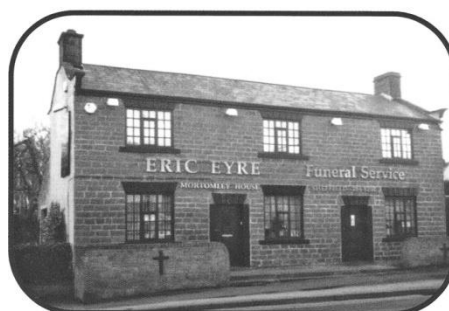
Funeral Services

... over 60 years of personal service

- A fully qualified privately owned & Independent Family Funeral Service.
- Offering a caring & dignified service, private rest rooms, coffin selection, floral tributes & memorials.
- Catering available on request in our own reception rooms or the venue of your choice.
- Pre - Payment Funeral Plans Available.

The Funeral Home  
Mortomley House  
2 & 4 Mortomley Lane  
High Green  
☎ 0114 284 8202

826 Barnsley Road  
Sheffield Lane Top  
☎ 0114 327 1720  
34 Housley Park  
Chapeltown



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans



British Institute of  
Funeral Directors

Eric Eyre National President  
1989 - 1990





# It is time to Eat or Drink Pomegranates

With their glossy, leathery skin containing hundreds of seeds that sparkle in bright pinkish-red pulp and juice, there's something very festive about pomegranates. Their attractive appearance and fragrant sweet-sharp juice adds excitement to both sweet and savoury dishes. Elizabeth David suggests serving them with a touch of rose water, lemon juice and sugar. Jamie Oliver's Pomegranate and Gin Cocktail is a simple and striking party drink that works equally well with vodka.



The Pomegranate - *Punica Granatum* is a small long-lived tree whose fruit contain seeds (precisely 840 each, apparently) that are distributed by birds feeding on the pomegranates. The tree is native to Iran where it still grows wild today and from where it spread to India, China and Europe at least two thousand years ago. The pomegranate plays a key part in the Greek myth explaining the origin of the seasons - read the story of Demeter (Goddess of agriculture) and Persephone <https://www.greeka.com/greece-myths/persephone/>

Spanish sailors took the fruit to America as its tough skin and durability made it a fruit well suited to long sea voyages. Pomegranates have long featured in traditional dishes throughout the Middle East and the Caucasus. They are now grown in the Mediterranean, tropical Africa, India and South East Asia. Largely ignored by the English-speaking world until relatively recently, they have become a much less rare sight in the UK in the last decade.

**Buying** - Pick fruit that are weighty for their size (indicating a high liquid content) with taut, glossy, unbroken skin. Stored in a fridge or other cool, dry place, pomegranates keep for many weeks if not months. How long yours keep will depend on how long they were stored before purchase, but pomegranates bought in good condition should be fine for a month.

**Preparing** - To extract the pulpy seeds, cut in half and spoon them out. Discard the bitter white flesh. If it's the juice you're after, roll the pomegranate on a hard surface with the palm of your hand before cutting in half. Squeeze the contents into a sieve and press with a wooden spoon.

**Grenadine**, a syrup traditionally made from pomegranate juice, can make a delicious addition to drinks and desserts. Beware of synthetic concoctions made without pomegranates. You can stir **Pomegranate Molasses** straight into sparkling water to make a refreshing drink, use it in salad dressings, add to humous dips, or to glaze grilled meats.

The Spanish word for pomegranate - granada - and the species name (*granatum*) allude to the many 'grains' (seeds) in the fruit. The hand grenade is said to take its name from the fruit - early grenades resembled pomegranates in shape and in containing many shrapnel 'seeds'

**Do you, your family, friends or  
neighbours shop at  
Amazon.co.uk?**

If you do, you can support St Mary's  
Church at **no extra cost**.

Just shop at **smile.amazon.co.uk** –  
where you will find the exact same  
prices, selection and shopping  
experience, but with the added bonus  
that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of  
your net purchase price of eligible  
purchases to St Mary's Church.

Spread the word, and happy shopping!



Remember to select “**Ecclesfield Church**”  
as your charitable organisation before you  
shop, or use this link which does it for you

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1144309-0>



## Chapeltown & District Probud Club

Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club is still meeting every month on the 2nd Wednesday although this continues to be using the Zoom system. Unfortunately we are unable to have lunch either at Whitley Hall Hotel or Wortley Hall after the meetings. It also means that our occasional visits remain suspended for the time being. We are all hoping that normal service is going to be resumed sometime in 2021 – as is everyone else!

Zoom meetings are proving to be very successful and we are regularly getting just under 30 members at meetings. In November, we had a return visit by David Templeman who spoke about 6 selected historical suburbs of Sheffield including “At a Cliffe”! So far, he has researched 24 historical suburbs and has yet to start on those previously in the old West Riding – so plenty more to come.

Upcoming meetings: -

9th December 2020 Ian Webb – “The Alaskan Trail”

13th January 2021 Peter Slater returns with – “Do I Know Who I Am?”

10th February 2021 John Hope – “Come Fly With Me”

Guests and potential new members are very welcome and until normal meetings resume, you can join for the special price of £10 with no further membership charges until normal meetings resume.

If you are interested, please contact the secretary,

Trevor Winslow on 07966 317258 or [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com)

Or see the website at [www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk)

# Crossword Puzzle

## **Clues Across**

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

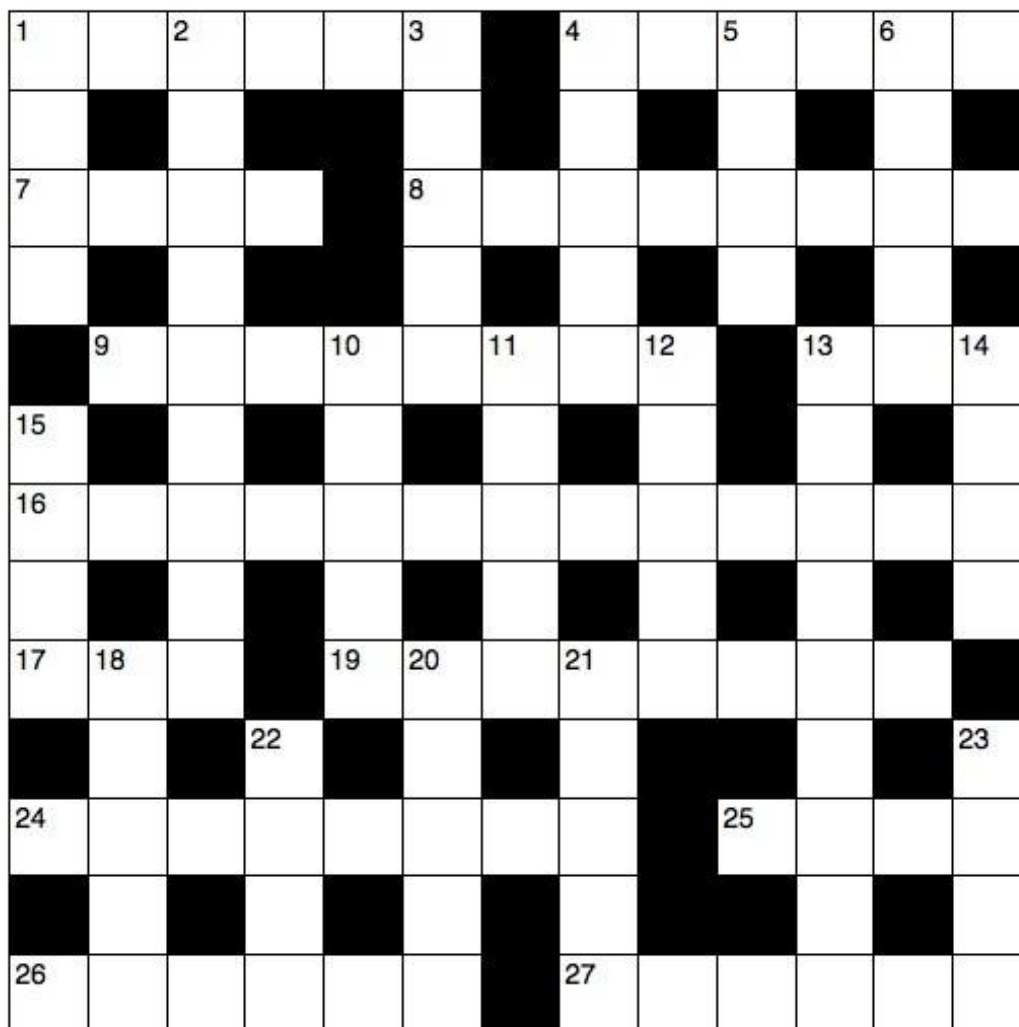
## **Clues Down**

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)



- 20** One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21** Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22** Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23** Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Solution is on Page 20



"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day ... any suggestions?"



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

# Prayers and Poems Page

*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: 'Now those that know me know that I'm an old fashioned sort of a bloke. I completely understand those who give to charity instead of buying Christmas cards, and I don't really mind getting electronic messages, but I really do appreciate a good old-fashioned Christmas card. I put them up in my hall, and I often stand and admire them, and think of those who sent them long after an e-mail has disappeared below the special offers and the dozens of e-mails that come in each day.'*

## Let's hear it for the Christmas card!

A folded piece of Christmas cheer  
Came through the post today!  
I love it when those cards appear  
I love the things they say!

And at this busy Christmas time  
I'm always glad to see  
The Christmas scene or Christmas rhyme  
That you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take  
Is really, really kind –  
Some people even sit and make  
A card for me to find!

And in our virtual world of text  
And pictures on a screen  
These bits and bytes leave me perplexed  
If you know what I mean?

And so I think that it is fine  
To see your kind regard  
I can admire this Christmas time

Your real Christmas card!

*By Nigel Beeton*

---

## Lines from Invocation of Peace

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you;  
Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you;  
Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you;  
Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you,  
Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you!  
Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

*By Fiona Macleod (19th century Celtic visionary and romantic)*

## Christmas Frustration????

I said to God, upon my knees  
"O Lord, I am so cross!  
"That gift I sent to Aunt Denise  
"Within the post is lost!  
"That tree I bought for forty pounds  
"(Well, just a penny less)  
"Its needles lie upon the ground  
"It looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand,  
"I sent my Son, you know.  
"He came to Earth, just as I'd planned  
"Two thousand years ago  
"Was born within a stable bare –  
"The cattle heard Him cry  
"He spoke of love, men didn't care  
"They led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love  
"No higher price was paid.  
"He left His throne of light above  
"For sin His life to trade.  
"But even after all these years  
"This gift you men eschew,  
"So Christmas is a time of tears

"For Me, as well as you."

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Christmas Foretold

From untold glory to a manger of straw  
Who could imagine such a thing?  
From Eternity stepping down into Time  
With very few to welcome Him in.

Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men,  
In His mother's arms the Baby lies,  
Scripture describes these amazing events  
As prophecy unravels before our eyes

The Books of the Bible all tell of His coming  
His life, His death, redemption's plan,  
The King of glory revealed in God's Word  
Touching our earth in the form of a Man.

*By Megan Carter*



# A Visit from St. Nicholas

By [Clement Clarke Moore](#)

**"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house**  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—



And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—  
**"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"**



## 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: Robert 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](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com)

### Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)  
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 - 5.45 - 7.00 pm  
Shane Porteous  
[shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk](mailto:shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk)

### Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm  
Leader - Bryony Hemming  
Tel. 07983 719155

### The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's  
Church Hall at 7:30 pm  
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 07824 112584  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk)

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some  
Sundays and weekdays.  
Please make contact if you wish to play or  
learn.  
Secretary: Joe Webster, 0796 901 4592  
[jwebster@horburygroup.com](mailto:jwebster@horburygroup.com)

### Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month  
in Grenoside Community Centre  
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome  
Secretary Trevor Winslow 07966 317258  
We are now on Zoom see  
[www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk)

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



## Useful Contacts



**Vicar**                                      Revd Tim Gill                                      257 0002  
E-mail: [tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org)

**Churchwardens:**                      Ann Hackett                                      246 7159  
    Jo Hawksworth                                  246 2852  
    Tom Proctor                                    246 0373  
    Vacancy

**Readers:**                                      Pat Clarke                                      257 7191  
    Stephanie Dale                                  245 2392

### **Pastoral Workers:**

**Church Office:**  
Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm  
Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm                                      245 0106

**Church Choir Practice** in Church  
Currently Suspended

**Music Group Practice** in Church  
Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker                                      246 0746

**Mother's Union** in Gatty Hall  
1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm  
Contact: Stephanie Hartshorne                                      245 9435

**Ecclesfield Ladies Group** in Gatty Hall  
Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron                                      245 5492

**Bell Ringers** meet in Church Belfry  
Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Phil Hirst                                      286 2766

**Gatty Hall Bookings,**  
Contact us on:                                      0780 307 8223

**Baptisms:** Contact – Pat Clarke                                      257 7191

**Weddings:** Contact: Revd Tim Gill                                      257 0002

“ Or email: [tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org)

**Office e-mail**      [office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com](mailto:office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com)

**Magazine e-mail**      [stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com)





**Support St. Mary's by donating today**

**Why your donation counts**



Ecclesfield Church does not get any funding from the government or local authority. All its income comes from the generosity of people like yourself who give to support its services and help maintain the building for future generations.

Whether you give regularly or as a 'one-off', you can increase your donation by Gift Aiding it. This allows us to recover the basic rate tax paid on your gift, for every £ 10 you give the government gives another £ 2.50, making your gift worth £ 12.50

Scan the QR code using your mobile phone and donate by Google Pay, Apple Pay, PayPal or using your debit / credit card