

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March 2020

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*Price 60p*

# First words

March is almost here and with it the hope for Spring, for more daylight and for much less rain! The focus for much that is happening at St Mary's this March is Lent and our preparation for the Easter celebration.

On **Monday 2nd March at 7.30pm** the **PCC** will be meeting in Church. If you have any matters for the PCC please let Tim or one of the wardens have it at least a week before the meeting.

From **Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th March** Tim will be out of the parish at the **New Wine Church Leaders conference in Harrogate**.

On **Friday 6th March at 2pm** there is a **Wedding** in Church. And on **Sunday 8th March** we have **Baptisms at 12 noon**.

Our Lent Course ***Shining as Lights*** begins on **Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm** in Church and will run for 5 weeks, ending on Wednesday 8th April. Everyone is encouraged to come along to these sessions as we explore how we can better live our daily lives as followers of Jesus.

On **Friday 13th March at 11.30am** there will be a simple **Lent Lunch** in Church.

Our monthly **Prayer Breakfast** in on **Saturday 14th March 9.30am**.

The **Ecclesfield Feoffees** will meet in Church on **Tuesday 17th March at 6pm**. This will be followed at **7.30pm** by the **Ecclesfield Welfare Charities** meeting.

**Mother's Day** falls on **Sunday 22nd March** this year. We are combining this with the celebration of the Annunciation when Gabriel visited Mary and told her that she will be the mother of the Messiah. Our Church is, of course, dedicated to St Mary and it is an opportunity to give thanks for our life and our heritage and to commemorate our patron saint.

On **Monday 23rd March from 9.30am - 2.30pm** there will be a joint **Chapter Meeting of the Hallam and Ecclesfield Chapters**.

**Ecclesfield High School** are putting on a Music Concert on **Tuesday 24th March at 7pm** in Church. Doors open at 6.30pm. More details available nearer the time.

**Ecclesfield Primary School** will be in Church on **Wednesday 25th March at 1.15pm** for their **Easter Service**.

Finally, a reminder that every **Thursday** morning at **9.30am** in the Chancel we have a simple celebration of the **Eucharist**. It is a quiet and reflective service. If you have never been on Thursday, why not come along during Lent?

God bless you all, Tim

# Andrew Jones

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# Thought for the Month

On the last Monday in February I set off for a walk after lunch with my two dogs Oscar and Reggie. You might be able to guess the weather on that afternoon. The sky was grey, it was raining, and the ground was absolutely saturated!

As we set off, I noticed at the side of the driveway that the snowdrops and crocuses were out. Their colours and brightness seemed almost like an act of defiance against the bad weather and general gloom of February.

Those beautiful Spring flowers are promise and hope: that winter is not unending; that there will be new life. The start of Lent this year coincides with the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring.

Lent is not usually anyone's favourite Season in the Church Calendar. We start Lent with a time of repentance and with a reminder of our mortality as the ashes made from last year's Palm Crosses are imposed on our foreheads.

In these weeks we are encouraged to look seriously at ourselves; to ask questions about our lives and about our discipleship - our following of Jesus' way. We try to do things that help us to grow closer to God and closer to becoming the people that we are called to be.

But Lent is not an end in itself. It is a journey towards Easter. Lent is a pilgrimage of hope and promise. In these weeks we are reminded that we are made for God's kingdom. We remember that although we are mortal, because of Christ and His resurrection our mortal nature will be 'swallowed up by immortality' as St Paul put it.

As the sight of those Spring flowers brightened up a very grey Winter afternoon, so the remembrance of Easter, of the empty tomb and the Risen Jesus, makes our Lenten journey easier.

Whatever you do this Lent. Whether it is giving up something or taking something on; whether it is spending more time reading the Bible or coming to a Lent group or a mid-week Communion service, whatever you do keep your focus on Easter, on the death of death and the victory of life and hope which Christ won once and for all; once and for us.

May God bless you this Lent.

Tim

# Grenoside Singers – Come and Join Us

If you are considering taking up a new interest why not make it singing as we'd love a few more people to join our ranks and we encourage any budding singers out there to come along and give us a try. If you decide to join the choir you will be part of a warm and happy band of people – there are no auditions, just turn up and sing! As a member, you will also be welcome on our occasional trips; following our visit to Ypres to sing at the Menin Gate last year, nothing is planned for 2020 but we are considering a trip to sing in Bruges in 2021.

We are now busily practising several new numbers for our summer season concerts based on the theme of "Around the World" and details of our concert programme will be released in due course. As ever, we are available for wedding ceremonies and have an extensive wedding repertoire available for couples to choose from. If you are planning your wedding and you would like to book the choir to enhance your happy day then please contact us (See information inside back page).

If you are interested in joining the choir, you would be very welcome to come along to any of our rehearsals which are held in St. Mark's Church Hall, Grenoside, on Monday evenings at 7.30pm, or contact the Secretary, Judith Gill for more information (Details inside the back page of this edition).

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# God and The Arts

*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess begins a series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this will run throughout 2020.*

## **‘He gave us eyes to see them’: woodcut from Cologne Bible of 1478**

The RSPCA was the first national animal welfare society in the world and was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, ‘Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure consist with genuine and true benevolence?’



This month we focus on the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. Balaam has not heeded God’s will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way. Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, ‘Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?’ Balaam’s eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

This story is captured in a vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478. It was a translation into Low German and enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey in the countryside. He has raised his hand to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we look and ponder this story, we can remember that cruelty and abuse mark out life today with children, vulnerable adults, and all creatures great and small. The donkey calls us to think of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of Don Quixote, or Tim Moore travelling the camino with his donkey in ‘Spanish Steps.’ And in the Gospels, we recall the donkey in the Christmas story and the donkey that bore Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. We celebrate that day next month: the humble donkey sharing in the triumph of that entry, just as he shares with all animals in the wonder of creation. G K Chesterton’s poem reminds us that the donkey may be starved, scourged and derided, but he had that special hour of glory. ‘There was a shout about my ears and palms before my feet.’

# St James the Least of All

## On the nonsense of having a lavatory at church

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St James the Least of All.

Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly. A hymn book has been installed as an *aide memoire*.

The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar.

I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby-changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on in the service. But we are made of sterner stuff, and I maintain that our congregation should be grateful that they now have a lavatory at all. And to think that someone suggested it should even have heating!

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## ‘Enfleshing the Word’.

A few weeks ago it was my privilege to speak from the pulpit to the congregation at St. Mary’s on the mornings set readings from the Bible. Matthew’s gospel reading was about the call of the first disciples, two sets of brothers – Andrew and Peter, James and John, who seem to have just dropped everything to follow this young rabbi called Jesus. This caused me to ask the question, ‘What made them follow this man; why did they become attached to him, work with him and for him for the three years which make up our gospel stories, the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?’ Jesus said, ‘Follow me’, and they did. I like to think he may even have smiled as he offered to make them ‘Fishers of men’! - *(Matthew 4:12-23)*

These four young men seem to have responded immediately, whole-heartedly, and generously. They seem to follow the man rather than the doctrine, and are the first of many to become attached and stay attached, even though Jesus is a demanding teacher, whose standards are high, and whose emphasis is one of total faithfulness – no half measures.

What made these four ordinary men disciples of Christ?

What makes us Christians?

Let us not be discouraged. These first disciples were eager and willing, but they were far from perfect. They may have had their own motives for following Jesus, but they were very human in nature, showing traits of doubt, greed, failure and disappointment, even denial and fear. They were indeed ordinary people and yet, in following Jesus, these men find someone who would raise them from the ordinary and who would cause them to respond to their finest instincts. Christ led the way, they chose to follow and were changed under his influence. I am convinced there was more than just respect for this rabbi, there was a love which developed over the next three years as they travelled together, and this was the firm foundation for the enduring faith of the many millions of inspired and faithful followers ever since.

So let us be encouraged. Jesus called Andrew, Peter, James and John because he needed help. He needed a team to sow seeds, to plant for the future, to save the harvest, to be fishers of men. These ordinary men in everyday situations took a great leap of faith.

You don’t need to be exceptional to work with Jesus, you just need to follow his lead! His team was made up of ordinary people who were inspired by this extraordinary man. They simply said yes when he asked them to help him. **He is still asking.**

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**Prayers** - When my daughter was young, she was glad to say her prayers, but she always worried whether God would know which little girl she was. One night after the usual 'Amen', she dropped her head upon her pillow and closed her eyes. After a moment she said, "Lord! This prayer comes from 203 Seldon Ave. I'll get you the postcode tomorrow."

**Colourful writing** - The foreign student, writing a letter to the superintendent of the mission society, desired to end with the words: 'May Heaven preserve you.' Not being quite confident of the meaning of 'preserve', he looked it up in a dictionary. When the letter reached the director, it ended with the words: 'And may Heaven pickle you.'

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# Will You Remember Them – Big brother is watching!

**The 2020 World Watch List has been released and the numbers are staggering:**

More than 260 million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution. That's 1 in 8 believers worldwide. Many of whom are targeted, just because they follow Jesus.

But behind all the statistics and facts, research for the World Watch List reveals some significant trends that show us what's happening today to God's people around the world. Here is one of the most important trends from the 2020 World Watch List:

In the most populated countries on earth, Christians live under technology threat.

Surveillance cameras like these on the streets of China are always watching—who you are, where you're going—and who do you worship?

In China, where there are an estimated 97 million Christians, persecution against Christians has taken a technological turn. A recent report cited by CNBC (Consumer News and Business Channel – USA) estimates there are approximately 415 million surveillance cameras in China, a number only expected to grow in coming years. Some estimates suggest that eventually there may be more cameras than people in China—quite a feat for a country with a population of 1.2 billion.

China has developed widespread facial recognition software and established laws requiring facial scans to purchase a phone. When taken together, these two technological advances mean the government can track individuals across cities, public places and even churches where cameras are installed.

“Christian faith is under attack and the methods of that persecution are becoming more sophisticated, and thus pose a greater threat,” says Open Doors CEO David Curry, “because they have the ability to oppress on a massive scale now, and I think it's a blueprint for others.” The technology will not be reserved to China or Asia. “Clearly Iran is interested in this technology,” Curry says, “and you can imagine how, in the hands of an Islamic regime, this could be a massive tragedy for religious minorities.”

China is also rolling out a country-wide Social Credit System (SCS) by which authorities plan to reward “good” citizenship and punish “bad.” Already, one community has reportedly decided to add penalties for those who “illegally spread Christianity.”

*Continues on page 25*

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# Prayer for the Month

**“You are great, Lord, and highly to be praised (Ps 47:2): great is your power and your wisdom immeasurable” (Ps 146:5). Man, a little piece of your creation, desires to praise you, a human being “bearing his mortality with him” (2 Cor 4:10), carrying with him the witness of his sin and the witness that you “resist the proud” (1 Pet 5:5). Nevertheless, to praise you is the desire of man, a little piece of your creation. You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. (St Augustine)**

With this beautiful and well-known prayer Augustine begins his *Confessions*; not as racy a read as the title might lead us to believe! *The Confessions* is Augustine’s spiritual autobiography.

At the heart of this prayer is the idea that humanity is more of the heart than of the head; that what shapes our lives is not what we think about but what and how we love.

We were made not for a few decades, but for eternity; we were created not just for this world, but for heaven, for God. God is the goal of our lives and, according to Augustine, it is in God is where we find our ultimate and eternal fulfilment.

God is the creator of the universe, and not part of it; God is not simply one thing among others that we love or desire. God is present in all places and all things, in everything that we do.

In every moment of our lives we either draw closer to or move away from God. And this brings us to Lent. The details of our lives matter; the things that we do and desire are either helping us to reach the purpose of our existence or they distract us and get in the way.

In Lent we look at our lives, our habits; we ask questions about our motives. We bring ourselves into the light of Christ and ask, “What in my life helps me to come closer to God; what in my life pulls me away from God?”

And in this journey towards Easter, we try to cultivate the things that help us on our pilgrimage to the Kingdom of God and we resist those things that distract us or pull us away. Lent is not about self-denial for its own sake, much less is it about making ourselves miserable. Lent is about our ultimate joy and fulfilment. It is about our journey towards fulfilling the purpose of our existence.

This world has been called a “Vale of Soul-making,” a place where we prepare ourselves for eternity, for God and God’s kingdom.

During Lent we take serious stock of our lives. We remind ourselves of who we truly are and who we are made for.

In Lent we follow traditional practices that help us on our pilgrimage: we fast from the things that get in the way of our relationship with God, things that distract us or are becoming all-consuming passions in our lives; we spend more time in worship and prayer, or reading the Bible and so deepen our relationship with Christ.

In Lent we also take up things that will help us on our journey: we might donate time or money to a good cause; we might offer hospitality to a neighbour or make peace with someone that we have fallen out with.

I pray that this Lent you will reflect on Augustine's words; remind yourself that you are made for God, made for eternity and you will use this time to do something to help you to draw closer to God.

God bless you,  
Tim



**Mouse Makes**

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk. *READ John 2:1-11 to find out what happened.*

Where was the wedding?

How many water jars were there?

What were the water jars made of?

How much water did the jars hold?

What were the water jars for?

What did the disciples do?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?

Which of Jesus' miracles was this?

What did the steward tell the bridegroom?

What does this miracle show about Jesus?

J	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	W	A	W			
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SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS  
FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

# Lent at St Mary's 2020 - Shining As Lights

This year during Lent we will be following the Diocesan Course, 'Shining as Lights'. It is not just a study course; it is about the practical things that we can do in our daily lives to help us to follow Jesus are faithfully.

The course starts on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm and continues every Wednesday until Wednesday 8th April.

**Everyone is welcome, even if you have never been to a Lent Group in the past**

## 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

**Baptism Services – Monthly** - Times vary – please contact us for details

### **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

## St Mary's - Activities & Groups

**Church Office Opening times** - Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm and Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

**Coffee Shop** - Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

**Bell Ringers** - Tuesday 7.30 pm Bell ringing practice and Friday 7.30 pm Silent Bell ringing practice

**Choir Practice** - Currently suspended

**Music Group Practice** - Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church

# Church Diary Items to Note - March 2020

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Monday	2	7:30pm – 8:30pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	6	2pm – 3pm	Wedding in Church
Saturday	7	2pm – 4pm	Bellringers Training Course
Sunday	8	12pm – 1pm	Baptisms
Wednesday	11	7:30pm – 9:00pm	Lent Course 1
Friday	13	11:30am – 12:30pm	Lent Soup in Coffee Shop
Saturday	14	9am – 10am	Prayer Breakfast
Monday	16	7:00pm – 8:30pm	Fabric Team Meeting
Tuesday	17	5:00pm – 7:30pm	Ecclesfield Feoffees Meeting
Wednesday	18	7:30pm – 9:00pm	Lent Course 2
Saturday	21	9:30am – 1:00pm	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning
Sunday	22	5pm – 6pm	Youth Fellowship
Sunday	22	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Prayer and Praise
Tuesday	24	12pm – 1pm	Ecclesfield High School in Church to set up
Tuesday	24	7pm – 9pm	Ecclesfield High School Concert in Church
Wednesday	25	9:00am – 11:30am	Coit School in Church - Chapeltown
Wednesday	25	1pm – 3pm	Ecclesfield Primary School in Church
Wednesday	25	7:30pm – 9:00pm	Lent Course 3

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

16th February Daisy Rose Ainsbury  
 16th February Hope Isabelle Canavan

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

### Weddings

22nd February Scott Darby & Nora Kalandjian

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

### Funerals

3rd February Timothy John Sanders - 83  
 5th February Ann Robinson - 82  
 12th February John Wass – 77

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

### March - Lent No Flowers

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Eve (sometimes called Easter Saturday). But if you look in a calendar or diary and count the days they come to more than 40! This is because you don't count the Sundays in Lent!

During Lent in many churches, the altar is covered with a purple cloth. Purple is traditionally a royal colour and having a purple cloth on the altar helps people remember that Jesus is king and that he died at Easter. There are no flowers or any other decorations displayed in the church.

# 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.*

## **A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science**

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

# Mothers Union Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Stephanie welcomed everyone to the meeting and Hazel took the Service

Our Speaker today was Dr Rachel Wadsworth Silverwood.

Rachel spoke about balancing being a mother, a doctor, (an educator and leader) and a Christian.

Early years Sunday school at primary age – Stocksbridge, then St, Johns - Chapeltown 1990 to 1998. This changed to Newton Hall 2000, attended during time at Liverpool University. St. Mary's – Ecclesfield, 2017 onwards.

## **Personal Life**

University challenges 2000-2005

Started work in 2005, starting work in anaesthetics 2009, sitting Primary exams for Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in September 2010 and January 2011.

Married 2008. Thomas Born 2016, new baby due March 2020.

First Surgery May 2011 - July 2013 (Cyprus).

Final FRCA exam March and June 2013

FFICM October 2015 then re-sitting April 2016

Consultant post August 2016.

Rachel's actual job is split between Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine, she is now a Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine.

## **What we can do in intensive care.**

She brought ICM objects to show us including breathing Masks and talked about cases they must deal with: - 80% burns, RTC motorcycle accidents and sepsis in PICU (Psychiatric intensive care units)

Speaking about survivors and thinking about the effects of ICM on Families.

As a Christian Rachel found challenges with difficult situations, the suffering of others, the use of the chapel at work, being a mother. However, she felt she had been guided into this profession to use the skills she possessed, and she hoped she brought some comfort to those she met and made their difficult time a little more comfortable.

Stephanie thanked Rachel for her inspiring talk.

The next Mothers Union Meeting is on March 4<sup>th</sup>. And the 'Make A Mothers' Day' Coffee Morning is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

# The Gardening Year – March 2020

**Greenhouses and Frames** – Pot on over wintered Annuals such as Schizanthus and Antirrhinum from 3in. pots to 5in pots. Prepare a bed in a cool greenhouse for planting Tomatoes in April. Plant Hippeastum bulbs in 6in pots. Give liquid fertiliser every ten days to Regal and Zonal Pelargoniums.

Control insect pest such as aphids etc with insecticide sprays. Near the end of the month, pot on Begonias and Gloxinias into 5in pots, transfer Campanula plants into 9in pots. Prick out all seedlings when large enough to handle.

**Trees and Shrubs** – Plant deciduous trees and shrubs until the end of the month in fine weather. Top dress young and newly planted trees and shrubs with old manure, peat or compost. Plant pot grown Clematis and other wall shrubs, begin planting in prepared ground evergreens at the end of the month. Lightly prune shrubs damaged by heavy snowfalls and frosts, removing dead and damaged wood from Berberis, Hedera and Hypericum. Cut back hard the previous year shoots of Cypripedium, deciduous Ceanothus and Hypericum Calycinum. Cut Fuchsia and Lavatera back to live wood. Lightly Prune Lonicera Fragrantissima when it has finished flowering.

**Vegetables** – Onions – The Onion is the most versatile of Vegetables. It can be eaten raw in salads or sandwiches; boiled, baked, braised or fried as a vegetable with grills and roast meats; used in soups, stews, sauces, casseroles and omelettes; and it can be pickled or used in chutneys. In addition to onions grown from seed, onion sets – immature bulbs ripened during the previous Summer – may be planted in March or April to produce an Autumn crop. Onions need a site in full sun, and do best on light, deep loam which has been manured well, if not already done dig in two buckets full of manure or compost per square yard. Two weeks before planting give a dressing of 4oz of bone meal and 2oz sulphate of potash. Alternatively, rake in 3oz of general fertiliser.

*Colin Williams*

## Eat the Seasons – March

**Vegetables** - Cauliflower, Kale, Leeks, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Spinach, Spring Onions, Swede, Wild Nettles

**Fruit** - Bananas, Blood Oranges, Kiwi Fruit, Lemons, Oranges, Passion Fruit, Pineapple, Rhubarb

**Meat** – March is the month when many animals bear young and traditionally little if any meat and eggs were consumed, it is also associated with Lent when many fasted.

**Fish** - Clams, Cockles, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mackerel, Mussels, Oysters, Red Mullet, Salmon, Scallops (Queen), Skate, Turbot, Winkles

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

# Humour

**Smart money** - "Dad," said the son, "what is a financial genius?"

"A financial genius," said his harassed father, "is a man who can earn money faster than his family can spend it."

**Posh pooch** - Visitor to Crufts: "Has this dog got a good pedigree?"

Indignant Breeder: "Has he? If this dog could talk, he wouldn't speak to either of us."

**Lullaby** - Mother (singing): "By low, my baby..."

Father (overhearing): "That's right; you tell him to buy low and I'll teach him to sell high."

**Wet** - Physics Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"

Student: "The telephone rings."

**Family car** - Teacher: "Give me a definition of 'home'."

Student: "Home is where one half of the family waits until the other half is through with the car."

**Mini** - Driver on a tight budget: "I need three litres of petrol and a cup of oil, please."

Garage: "And shall I cough into the tyres, sir?"

**And then....** Teacher: "What is the difference between results and consequences?"

Bright pupil: "Results are what you expect; consequences are what you get."

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# 'Enfleshing the Word'.

*Continued*

We need to pass on the baton because the message is so good, and many people even today may have never had the opportunity to hear any of the wonderful words of Christ.

Why am I a Christian? That is a simple and yet a very deep question to answer. I love encountering the stories afresh, don't you? I love reading them, hearing them over and over, sharing them with others in the friendly atmosphere of St. Mary's. They are very human stories, timeless and so very precious. Like those first disciples, I want to get to know the man Jesus who has the God given power to change hearts.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell speaking last year at Sheffield Cathedral said of Christ, 'The Word was made flesh. The Word was made something uncomfortably real, uncomfortably tangible. We need to carry on that work of enfleshing the Word in as many different ways as we can, because I think it is the way our culture will respond to the beauty of Christ'.

**SD.**

---

## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

P	L	A	N	E	T		R	U	G	G	E	D	
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# ERIC EYRE

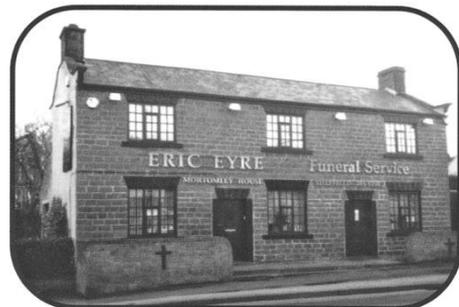
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# Saint of the Month - Felix of Burgundy

## 8 March - Felix of Burgundy: apostle to East Anglia

East Anglia is blessed with a rich Christian heritage. Just two examples: at more than 650, Norfolk has the greatest concentration of ancient churches in the world, and at 500, Suffolk has the second greatest density of medieval churches. And that is not to mention all the churches in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire...

And it all began with one man, back in 630 A.D., a bishop named Felix. His name in Latin means 'successful' and 'happy' – an excellent description of someone who brought great good and stability to this beautiful corner of England.



Felix of Burgundy, as depicted in the reredos in St Peter Mancroft, Norwich

Felix came from Burgundy in France. At some point he was consecrated bishop, and went to Canterbury, to see Honorius, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 630 the Christian king Sigebert returned from exile in Gaul to rule the East Angles, and Honorius sent Felix along with him, to evangelise the people. According to local legend, Felix went by boat, and arrived at Bablingley in Norfolk.

Felix may well have known Sigebert back in Gaul, for the two men worked exceptionally well together. Sigebert settled Felix in Dunwich, which became the centre of his diocesan 'see'. Then, with the support of Sigebert, Felix set up the first-ever school in East Anglia. He brought teachers up from Canterbury to staff it, and the school became, according to Bede, the place "where boys could be taught letters".

Felix had a fruitful ministry to the Anglo Saxons for 17 years. He preached Christianity, encouraged the school to grow, and did a lot of other good. All in all, Felix brought the love of God, the good news of Jesus, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, delivering "all the province of East Anglia from long-standing unrighteousness and unhappiness," according to Bede. Certainly, the people came to love Felix.

When Felix finally died on 8th March 647 or 648, he left the Christian faith firmly embedded in East Anglia. Six ancient English churches are dedicated to Felix, and Felixstowe bears his patronage.

# News and Events from Your Local Ecclesfield Library

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## Regular Activities

### Monday

**Knit & Natter** – from 2.30 onwards

**Computer Club** - 1-4pm

**Readers Group** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 5-6pm

### Tuesday

**Tai-Chi** - 11.15-12.15pm

### Wednesday

**Knit & Natter** - 1pm onwards

**Creative Writing Group** - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 6-8pm

**Ecclesfield Village History Group** - last Wednesday of the month 3-5pm  
(except August and December)

### Friday

**Little Bear Club** (0-4 years) - 10-11.30am

*For more information about these, or any future events, please either call into the library, phone us on 0114 2463615, email us at [ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter*

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*Volunteers Welcome, Contact Ann Hackett 246 7159*

## **Will You Remember Them – Big brother is watching!**

*Continued*

It's easy to see how surveillance technology could be used in tandem with the SCS to make everyday life very difficult for anyone the Chinese government deems insufficiently "Chinese"—including Christians.

Similarly, in India, the government plans to introduce a national facial recognition system. Christians already live under the governance of a strict Hindu nationalist party - a party that has allowed, and in many cases accelerated, the growth of the belief that to be Indian is to be Hindu. Such new moves to implement surveillance technology has many Christians alarmed.

Facial tracking could lead to increased pressure and persecution of Christians who are already deeply impacted by violence—there were at least 447 verified incidents of violence and hate crimes against Christians in India in the 2020 World Watch List reporting period. There is fear that more tracking could increase these attacks.

*This may have been eye-opening to read, and it may help you clearly see what millions of our sisters and brothers are facing around the world. Please join them in 2020 in prayer and support, because we know that we are all one Church, one Family.*

# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)

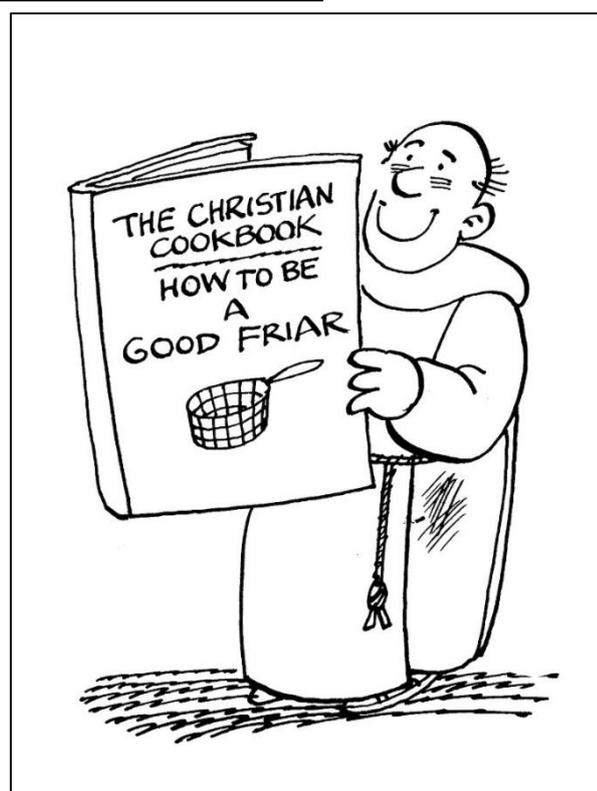
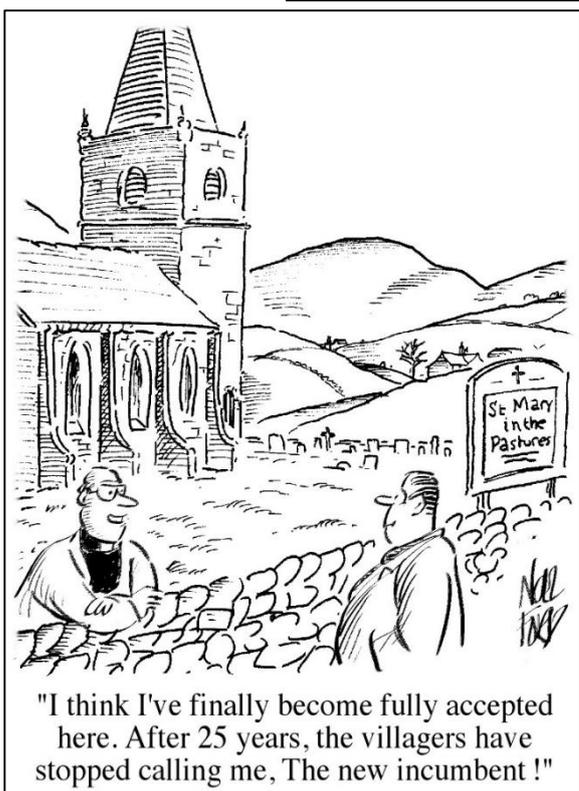
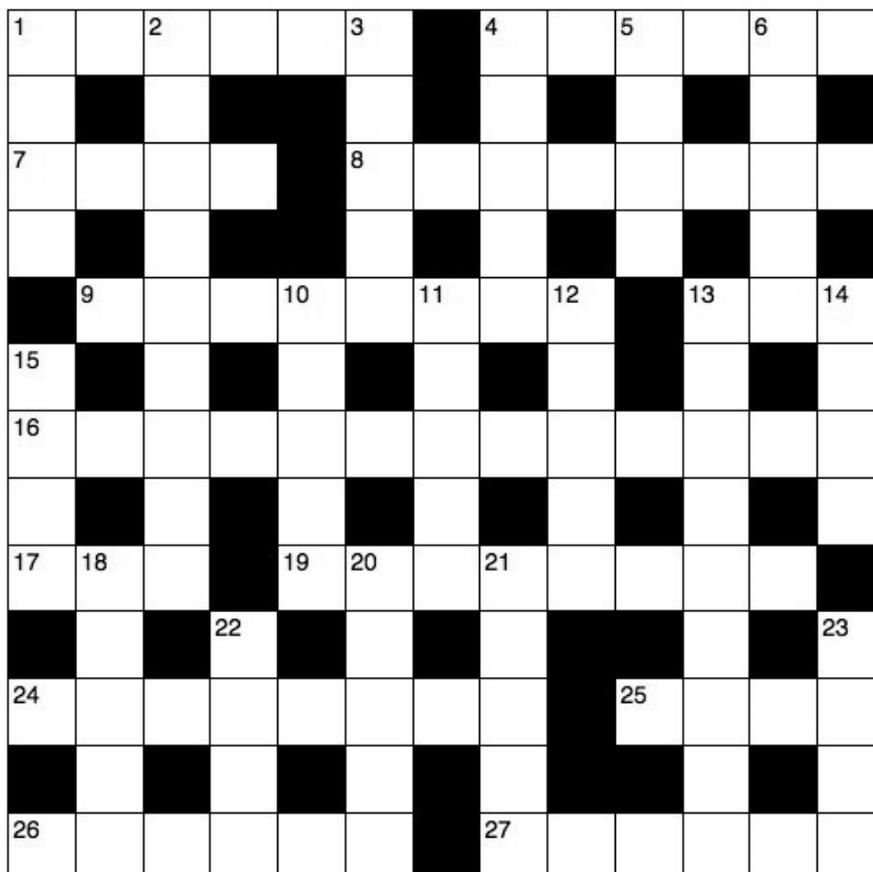
20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)

21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)

22 Does (anag.) (4)

23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

Solution is on Page 20



# Prayers and Poems Page

## Prayer for help and healing

Father,  
You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children.  
Please have mercy on us in these times of turmoil and division.  
Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions.

And guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world.  
Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us. In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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### Hunger for God

Forty days of prayer and fasting  
Forty days of hunger and thirst;  
Forty days to put self behind us  
Forty days in Jesus immersed!  
In this Lenten time we hunger for God  
Come to know that Jesus comes first.

May our hunger not be for manna  
May we thirst, instead, to be blessed.  
May our hunger be for justice –  
Justice for the poor and oppressed.  
In this Lenten time we hunger for God  
Come to know that Jesus knows best.

May we come through Lent's forty trials  
To a truly God-centred place!  
May we cease obsession with mirrors  
Come to look, instead, on Your face  
In this Lenten time we hunger for God  
May we all encounter Your grace.

*(Tune, Picardy (Let all mortal flesh keeps silence.))*

*By Nigel Beeton*

### The Table

The table in our dining room,  
Where daily dinners are consumed;  
Where Mother serves her wondrous pies!  
Where candled cakes light birthday eyes!

That table in our dining room  
Now stands against our fiery doom;  
Beneath it, we, in trembling fear  
Can feel the shocks as bombs fall near.

That table in our dining room  
Unseen within the blackout gloom  
Dark sentinel of precious lives  
As, overhead, the bombers dive.

The table in our dining room,  
It could, maybe have been our tomb!  
Protects us from our foes up there  
Supported by our fervent prayer!

The silence comes – the planes are gone  
We thank the Lord with joyful song  
As we emerge from our cocoon –  
The table in our dining room.

*By Nigel Beeton*

---

**Editor:** Nigel Beeton writes: In this year, 2020, we shall be marking some wartime anniversaries; 80 years since the Battle of Britain and 75 since VE and VJ Days. March seems to have two such milestones. Eighty years ago, 16th March 1940 saw the first casualty of German bombing following an air raid on Scapa Flow, while 29th March sees the 75th anniversary of the last German ordnance to fall on British soil, a V1 bomb which landed in Hertfordshire. It brings to mind the terrifying nature of air raids, terror which few alive today can recall. My mother had no air raid shelter; she, her mother, and my uncle used to hide under the dining room table while bombs fell nearby:

# The Churchyard – Issue 13

Ecclesfield families have long been connected with the industries and commerce of this part of the country. Descendants have branched out away from the parish and appear as prominent citizens in many places. One such reminder of this came recently with the announcement that Mr. Stephen Martin de Bartolome is to become the Master Cutler for the coming year (1962 – 1963).

It may be stretching the claim of family linkage a little, but Mr. Bartolome's grandfather certainly came to Ecclesfield and was buried in the Churchyard. The grandfather, Mariano Alejo Martin de Bartolome, M.D. (Edinburgh), was born at Segovia, Spain on 17th July, 1813, and was descended from a Spanish provincial governor.

On a journey from Spain to England he stopped at Jersey, where he met Miss Mary Parker, a member of the Parker and Shiercliffe families who have long had prominent Ecclesfield connections. Inspire of the difference of ages, Miss Parker was 25 years his senior, they were married and settled in these parts where Dr. Bartolome was to be at the Royal Infirmary for over 40 years.

When he was 44, his wife died at the age of 70, on the 11th March, 1858. For us her burial was significant as she was the last person to be buried inside the Church. She is buried in the Shiercliffe vault in the south chapel of the chancel below the east window. The stone itself is interesting as it has on it five crosses which seem to show that it was once the top of an altar; probably the altar in the south choir. (Eastwood p. 247).

Dr. Bartolome was married for a second time and had a number of children, from one of whom the Master Cutler descended. The gravestone records two daughters who died in infancy, and Francis, their third son, who died at the age of 18.

Dr. Bartolome died on 2nd June, 1890 at the age of 76, and his wife, Mary Emily, died on 10th August, 1905, aged 69. 'In the adjoining grave lies Elizabeth Shiercliffe Parker, his sister in law by his first marriage.

F. S. Hague

## 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

### 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

### Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:30 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  
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### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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e-mail – fletcher177@hotmail.com  
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