

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine May 2020

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# First words

As I write we are still in lockdown with Covid 19 and all regular activities and services are on hold.

We cannot meet together to worship, but on St Mary's Facebook page and on the Church website a service of Morning Prayer will be posted every Thursday and Sunday until we can worship together in Church again.

There are two dates for your diary:

on **Friday 8th May** we celebrate VE day: a time to remember that the freedoms that we have in the past taken for granted (we no longer do that!) were won for us by those who fought and died in that conflict. It is also a day to pray for peace, for an end to violence and for cooperation among the nations.

This year Ascension Day falls on Thursday 21st May. We were planning a service involving St Mark' St Saviours and St John's as usual; obviously this will not take place. There will be a service posted on Facebook and the Parish website on that day.

Rita Rowland from Church has been doing her daily walk during this lockdown as a sponsored walk for St Mary's. So far, she has raised about £400. Well done Rita! If anyone else would like to sponsor her please contact Tim on 0114 2570002

I end this page with a Church of England prayer for these days:

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

God bless you,

Tim



**Front Cover** – St Mary's – Easter 2020 by Andrew Robinson

**Back Cover** – View through St. Mary's lych gate

# Andrew Jones

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# Thought for the Month

This year on Ascension Day, 21st May, we won't be able to meet in Church to celebrate the end of the Easter Season. Our plans for a joint service with High Green, Grenoside and Chapelton will have to be put on hold.

On Ascension Day we remember Jesus departing from His disciples forty days after the resurrection. With the one exception of His meeting with St Paul on the road to Damascus a few years later, there were no more appearances of the risen Christ. Jesus returned to the Father, there, according to the Book of Hebrews, He prays for us as our High Priest.

Ascension Day, though, is not so much about Jesus' absence as it is about His presence.

Today Jesus is physically absent from the world that He loves; but He is present in two very important ways.

Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit. Luke who wrote the first history of the church, the Book of Acts, like St Paul in his letters, sometimes calls the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Jesus." The Holy Spirit makes Christ present in the world and especially in the Church.

Our calling as Jesus' followers is to be the Body of Christ. The Church should look like Jesus in its ministry and mission, in its prayer and worship. We can only fulfil our calling by the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, working in and through us.

I often say that there are two questions that we can ask, questions that at first glance seem to be very similar, but that are actually very, very different.

The first question is the question of dictators and those who hunger for power; it is, "What would I do if I were God?" We have seen in the sad history of our world what happens when men, and it is usually men, play at god. We see the trail of death and disaster that they leave behind as their legacy.

The other question is the question of the follower of Jesus and the question of the Church of Jesus: "What would Jesus do if He were me?" What would Jesus do if He lived in my neighbourhood, in my workplace, among my friends and family; what would Jesus say and do, with whom would He stand if He lived in this place in this time?

Once we answer that question, we begin to see what God is calling us to do as a Church and as Christians. Then comes the hard work of following our calling. This we can only do by the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit.

As we follow God's call, so we become more Christ like as Christians and as a Church community. We become a sign of our Ascended Lord's continuing presence in the world that He loves.

God bless,  
Tim.

# From Deepest Devon

The Revd. Daniel Hartley  
Rector of the Aune Valley  
Benefice and Mission Community  
31 March 2020

I hope that you're all keeping well in Ecclesfield.

All is well here. In many ways we have the best place in the world to be isolated. Lovely garden and the beach in walking distance. Nathanael struggles with the lack of stimulation but we've managed a fair few outdoor activities in the garden. I'm ferrying prescriptions and supplies around. I liked the magazine list of things for a healthy lifestyle, particularly about avoiding alcohol. I'm afraid that I am failing miserably at this as are my parishioners. Only today I fulfilled a shopping list for one parishioner that consisted of a single item; "a 3 bottle box of red wine".

I'd say pass on my regards to others, but you won't be seeing people for a while. Stay safe.

Best wishes

Daniel

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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’: early Persian painting of Jonah and whale**

The prophet Jonah is mentioned three times in the Gospels when Jesus refers to ‘the sign of Jonah.’ In the Old Testament he was swallowed by a large fish, traditionally a whale, and in its belly for three days and three nights. It is easy to see in that sign a reference to the death and resurrection of Jesus, but the book is also a powerful allegory of life.



The prophet runs away from God, only to encounter a storm and possible shipwreck. He is thrown overboard and swallowed by the whale. We are living through difficult and anxious days with the coronavirus: we seem to be surrounded by fear and danger, like Jonah. Where, we ask, is our hope and safety amid the storm and threat of breakdown? In his distress Jonah prays to the Lord and places his trust in God. The psalm he utters ends with the words, ‘Deliverance belongs to the Lord.’ As he speaks, the whale spews him on to the safety of dry land.

The story of Jonah is depicted here in this beautiful painting from a 14th century manuscript from Persia. The whale is friendly and smiling, basking in the expanse of blue sea. Jonah is safe: his hope has triumphed, and God has delivered him from danger and possible death. In 1988 Heathcote Williams wrote a long poem called ‘Whale Nation’ in praise of these mysterious, gifted and intelligent creatures.

We hunt them, we plunder the seas for them. But they are also our friends and guides, and it is easy to neglect those truths. The book ends with examples of whales and dolphins guiding ships and saving human lives. So, we, in the midst of all that worries and perplexes us, can give thanks to God our guide and Saviour, and pray that He will bring us safely through life.

# St James the Least of All

## On the perils of a Scout camp

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol.

Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose, it will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm, for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders.

My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

# A birthday on the Covid Frontline – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

*Nigel Beeton works in Radiology in a hospital in the East of England. During this time of the coronavirus crisis, he is writing a weekly diary of his life at the hospital.*

There was a group of my staff just standing in the waiting area outside one of the CT scanning rooms the other day. I opened my mouth to speak but one of them caught my eye and put his gloved finger in front of his visor in the universally understood bid to be silent, understood despite the fact that his lips were separated from his finger by the visor and a face mask. They don't often shush their boss, so I very obediently closed my mouth again.

The door to the room opened, and an elderly patient appeared, accompanied by another radiographer.

“Happy Birthday Mabel!” everyone chorused (I've changed her name to protect her confidentiality.)

Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you!  
Happy Birthday, dear Mabel,  
Happy Birthday to you!

Even I joined in. I'm not sure if my singing voice is up to much, but my sentiments were genuine. I hoped she'd have a good birthday.

We all rounded off the melody with a round of applause, latex gloves make a strange popping noise if you clap while wearing them.

Dear Mabel loved it. She was clearly surprised and taken aback by the sight of half a dozen staff in PPE singing 'Happy Birthday' to her, but the experience had transformed an alien world of CT scanners and PPE into a familiar one of birthday wishes and a well-known song. “Oh, thank you everyone, you're all so kind; my family can't be with me today. Usually they come for my birthday.”

Mabel, in her eighties, was self-isolating due to her age, but still living independently at home. We check dates of birth as part of ensuring that we are doing the right thing for the right patient, and so my colleague had clocked that today was her birthday. Having got to know her well enough during the setting up stage to be happy that she wouldn't mind, he conspired with his colleagues while watching the scanner do its stuff.

The coronavirus may be keeping us separated from one another, but it is spurring us all on to make greater efforts to be connected to one another, to show our humanity towards one another. Someone bought us lunch today. It appeared in pots by our gate, and we sat down and enjoyed a meal of restaurant quality food. Our friends had supported a local restaurant which, in its hour of need has branched out into 'meals on wheels', and shown us such love and concern that a tear was brought to my eye.

I hope and pray that the coronavirus will soon fade into history. But I pray equally fervently that its legacy of connected humanity will last for many, many years to come.

# 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

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# Tim Brooke-Taylor

Well known comedian and actor Tim Brooke-Taylor has sadly died at the age of 79 as a result of COVID 19.

I wrote two articles in this magazine last year (August and December editions), covering England football centre forward Francis Pawson who became Vicar of Ecclesfield in 1903 and his half-brother Arnold Pawson who became vicar in 1921. I had generous help from Francis' grandson, Tim Brooke-Taylor, and Arnold's grandson, Robin Bursell.



Tim wrote to me in June last year:- “Dear Andrew, Your email arrived at the best possible time as I am meeting up, on Thursday, with Robin Bursell who tells me, in an email: *“This may come as a surprise to you, but we are cousins, sharing a Great Grandfather in Henry Pawson. I think I have this right - you are descended from his eldest son Frances by his first wife Sophie. Robin continued - my Grandfather, Arnold, was Henry’s second son by his second wife Maria. Arnold, a priest like Francis, succeeded his half-brother as Vicar of Ecclesfield. A bit complex, I’m afraid, but I think that makes us “half second cousins”, which my wife Mo finds highly amusing!!”* Tim continued - I am doing a show in Leyburn, North Yorkshire on Thursday next week, called "Oh! Goody!" with Chris Searle and Robin and I are meeting in the bar afterwards and will get back to you after our meeting”. Robin duly came back with further family details following their meeting in Leyburn.



*The Goodies - Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie*

Tim's Mother was Rachel Pawson, daughter of Vicar of Ecclesfield Revd. Francis Pawson. Rachel played lacrosse for her country and she married a solicitor, Julian Brooke-Taylor. Tim was brought up in Buxton and went to Winchester College (where drama was discouraged). Tim's Father died when he was only 13 and he had to apply for a local authority grant to gain entrance to Cambridge. When asked in interview what he would do in his spare time, on the spur of the moment, he quickly said he would join the Footlights acting group. And having been accepted at Pembroke College that is exactly what he did. In the Footlights he met life-long friends Bill Oddie, John Cleese, Graeme Garden and Graham Chapman and eventually became President of the Footlights.

*Continues on page 20*

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# Prayer for the Month

## *The Daily Examen.*

Whenever I teach individuals or groups methods of praying, I always give them a golden rule: “Pray as you can, not as you can’t!”

Some approaches to or techniques of prayer will work for you, and others won’t; what is helpful for one person is not helpful for others, and that’s ok. We are all different and we pray differently. Unfortunately, I often forget my own advice!

For many years I have got a great deal from the prayer exercises of Ignatius Loyola. With one exception, the prayer called the Daily Examen. It is a prayer to be used at the end of the day, a prayer to look back and see what has happened and where God has been present guiding us through the events of our daily lives.

I have tried for years to use this prayer, and always fall asleep while praying through it at the day’s end. Recently someone suggested that I pray through the Examen at a different time. I tried it, and it has taken off. The Examen has become one of the most important prayer times each day; not before going to sleep, but in the late afternoon when I say evening prayer.

So, what is the Daily Examen?

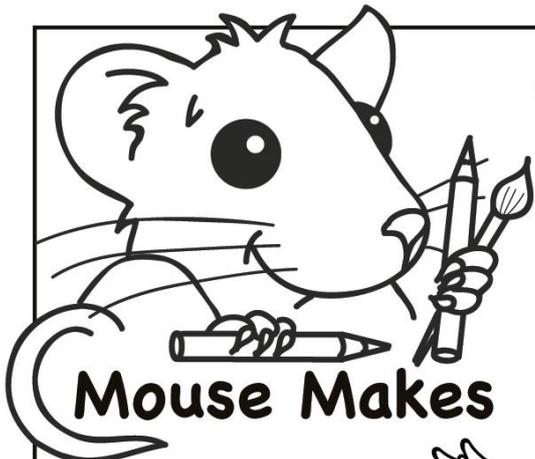
It is a prayer in which we review our recent past to find God and God’s blessings in life. We also look back at times in the day when things did not go well; we may have been hurt; we may have hurt others; we may have turned away from God.

There are five elements to the Examen:

1. Give thanks for all the good things that I am grateful today, big or small, special or routine. Thankfulness is an important spiritual discipline.
2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide me honestly through my review of the day past.
3. Review and recognise my failures. I ask the Spirit to show me the ways, big or small, that I have failed today.
4. Ask for forgiveness and healing. I ask that God heals any harm that I may have done. I ask for help to get over the day’s mistakes and to move on. I ask for wisdom to see how I might handle such situations better in the future.
5. Pray about the next day. I think about the things that I may be doing tomorrow, the people I will see, the decisions that I may be making. I ask for help in the moments that I see could be difficult.

The daily Examen is a prayer for life’s journey as the Holy Spirit works on and in us, slowly transforming us into the people that God has made us to be.

Why not give the Daily Examen a try, and if it helps great, but if not don’t worry about it; something else will!



**Mouse Makes**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?**

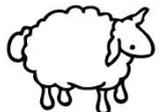


**Read Galatians 5:13-26**



Word search grid containing letters for finding words related to the fruit of the Spirit.

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

# Humour

**Why Jesus walked on water** - A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

"Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."

**Asleep** - A young man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and soon began to snore. The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."

**Solomon** - "Father," asked the little boy. "Did Solomon have 700 wives?"

"I believe so," said the father.

"Well, Father, was he the man who said, 'Give me liberty or give me death'?"

**Worth remembering** – A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."

# Quotes

*Editor: 31st May is Pentecost – the birthday of the Christian Church*

Only Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit can open blind eyes, give life to the dead and rescue souls from Satanic bondage. - *John Stott*

The Spirit is the source of all our natural gifts. - *D MacLeod*

When you go to church you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty basket, waiting passively to be filled. - *Roger William Riis*

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people. - *A W Tozer*

We could not pray at all were it not for the Holy Spirit. - *D Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

In one sense, Pentecost can never happen again. In another sense, it may always be happening, since we live in the age of the Spirit. - *Arthur Skevington Wood*

We could not pray at all were it not for the Holy Spirit. - *D Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

There is one thing we cannot imitate; we cannot imitate being full of the Holy Spirit. - *Oswald Chambers*

Is not the Church the very cork on which the world remains afloat? - *William Hendriksen*

# From the Registers

## Funerals

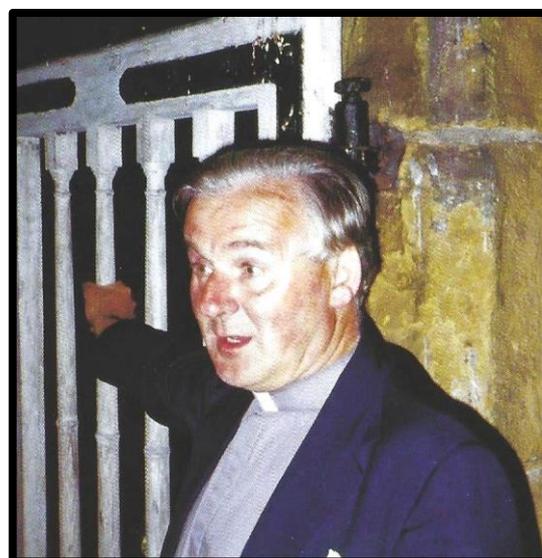
SGS = Simple Graveside Service and SCS = Simple Crematorium Service  
Memorial Services will follow when things are back to normal.

24th March	Amy May Roper aged	75	SCS
17th March	Maureen De Vaal aged	78	SGS
9th April	Leslie Worrall Aged	62	SGS

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

## Rev. Canon Ralph Mayland - 1927 to 2020

We have received very sad news from Hexham where we learn that former Vicar of Ecclesfield Ralph Mayland died on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Revd Canon Ralph Mayland was a charismatic Vicar at Ecclesfield from 1972 to 1982. While at Ecclesfield, he oversaw a re-ordering which included a range of changes including the completion of the nave altar. The kitchen, which he was very keen to introduce, had to wait until a later date following some objections! He lived in what was then the new vicarage behind the church with his wife Jean and daughters Sarah and Alex. Jean was instrumental in revising the church services into what became known as the alternative service book or ASB, and after leaving Ecclesfield she was also ordained. Before coming to Ecclesfield, Ralph had previously been a member of the Sheffield Industrial Mission. He will be remembered by many people and families in Ecclesfield.



He moved from Ecclesfield to become Canon Treasurer at York Minster. In York he oversaw the huge project to underpin the foundations of the building and the recovery from the fire in the South Transept.

Following retirement to Barmston on the East Coast, Ralph and Jean ended up in Hexham where visitors were well received and entertained in a living room that was completely full of mementos of a full and busy life in the church and the Navy, each item with its own story.

Ralph died peacefully in hospital aged 93, with Sarah at his side. Ecclesfield Church sends its condolences and love to Jean, Sarah, Alex and family. RIP Ralph.

*A more detailed obituary will appear later.*

# 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.*

## Can Science Prove God Exists?

To risk sounding like a smart aleck seven-year-old, technically speaking you can only prove things mathematically. If you need to know that one plus one equals two, don't go to a chemistry lab. The natural sciences only deal with things that can be observed and measured. Science has been so successful that it's tempting to get carried away, valuing science above any other kind of knowledge, but there are other ways of knowing that are equally important. For example, art conveys ideas, experiences or emotions that provoke us to think or do something in response.

In fact, to find answers to any of the really important questions about meaning and purpose that affect us throughout our lives, we always have to go beyond science. Some scientific data might help define the question, for example a farmer facing a drought would probably like to know some details about the current weather patterns and the availability of seeds for more hardy crops before she can start asking "What is the point of trying to grow anything at all?" But in the end, she is asking a deeper question – and so are the rest of us when we go through any significant experience in life.

So rather than asking "Can science prove God exists?", what about: "Are the findings of science compatible with the existence of a purposeful Creator?" For many scientists today, the answer to the second question is yes. They have investigated the Bible's descriptions of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found that they make sense. They have discovered that they can interact with God – especially in prayer – and that this faith has changed their lives.

Professor Christine Done, an Astrophysicist at Durham University, writes, "for me the more we know about the vast, yet intricate and beautiful Universe we live in, the bigger and more awe-inspiring is the God who made it all."

(Thinking About: The Big Bang, <https://www.cis.org.uk/resources/thinking/>)

Some go even further, making statements like this: "the way the universe exhibits an ordered structure, which is open to science to investigate, points to a mind behind it." (Revd Dr Rodney Holder, Astrophysicist, in *Longing, Waiting, Believing* (BRF, 2014))

The question "Can Science Prove God Exists?" turns out to be a category error – trying to use science to answer a non-scientific question. On the other hand, many scientists think there is enough evidence from a wide range of sources to warrant belief in God.

# On Being Overwhelmed

*The following is from Antony Billington, Theology Advisor to LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity), writing on 'Connecting with Culture'. Read more from him at [licc.org.uk](http://licc.org.uk)*

It was Harold Wilson who allegedly said that “a week is a long time in politics”. In these recent momentous days, it looks as if that should be reduced to five minutes.

In the space of a very short time, life has been turned upside-down. Work, school, family life, daily routines, leisure activities, as well as that number one pastime – shopping – have changed for all of us, almost overnight.

It's easy to see why our nation – nay, our world – is uneasy. You may feel it yourself, identify it in friends and colleagues, or see it reflected in your social media feeds. We're experiencing what theologian David Ford has called 'multiple overwhelmings'.

Whether personally, professionally, or politically, it's one thing to have a single event that knocks us off our feet. But what if the knocks continue to come thick and fast? Is it any wonder we're confused, anxious, distrustful, and fearful?

In all this, though, shafts of light manage to break through – the neighbours forming WhatsApp groups to support people in their street, the already-exhausted NHS workers coming in for the next shift, the rainbows in windows of houses saying more than the occupants of those homes perhaps know about the commitment of God to his creation.

They're all traces of grace, showing something of a refusal to be shaped by the prevailing culture, which Christians of all people should understand. Because while some 'overwhelmings' wound and crush us, others are life-giving and transformative. As David Ford says, the wisest way to cope is 'not to expect to be in control of everything', but 'to live amidst the overwhelmings' in a way that lets one of them shape the others.

Christians remember that Christ himself embodied 'multiple overwhelmings' – baptised in the Jordan, driven into the wilderness, tempted by the devil. Then, at the climax of his life, betrayed, deserted, tortured, crucified. But, as Ford writes, 'then came the resurrection, the most disorienting and transformative overwhelming of all'.

Given that death-and-resurrection pattern, what would it look like at this time to be overwhelmed with an assurance of God's love? Overwhelmed with gratitude? Overwhelmed by generosity? Overwhelmed by a commitment to pray? Overwhelmed by a desire to see others thrive, even if it comes at our expense?

# The Gardening Year – May 2020

Late May frosts are the bane of all gardeners. They are especially likely when night skies are clear – which is usually the case for much of the month – and when April has been drier than usual.

## **A Summary of the month's work**

**Lawns** - established lawns, apply sulphate of ammonia, apply fungicides for disease control, continue to apply lawn weed killer.

**Roses** - Spray regularly against greenfly, using a systemic insecticide. Spray with a fungicide against black spot, mildew and rust. Spray with fungicide before these diseases are seen when the young leaves are just forming.

**Flowers** - Chrysanthemums, plant out garden flowering varieties. If you want masses of colour all year the bedding chrysanthums (bishop's children) from Thomson and Morgan is a good variety, keep cutting them and you will have vases of cut flowers until the first frosts. Sweet peas frequent hoeing around the plants keeps weeds in check and conserves moisture make it a routine operation throughout the season, whether the plants are grown naturally or on the cordon system. During prolonged dry weather, especially if the soil is on the light side, remove all weeds, water thoroughly and then place a mulch of compost or well-rotted manure around the plants this keeps the roots cool conserves moisture and restricts weed growth.

**Fruit** - There is still a risk of frost damage especially in our area but trees are now making more growth which will protect the flowers and soil temperatures are rising so that low – growing fruits are less likely to be frosted than in April. Most fruits contain a high proportion of water and will benefit from watering in dry spells. Apart from its direct effect on the size and quality of the fruit, water applied when the trees and bushes are short of it will produce more growth and will result in a larger plant, which will bear bigger crops in later years. To avoid producing too much growth water mainly after flowering during the fruit swelling stage.

**Vegetables** - be ready to cover potatoes if frost is forecast. Sow main crop carrots if not already done. During the second half of the month sow runner beans plant the bean with the two eyes on the concave side down in the soil about 2-3in. deep as this is where the roots emerge from. If you wish to grow outdoor crops of marrows, squashes, pumpkins or courgettes, prepare the ground by digging in well-rotted manure early in the month. At the end of the month sow three seeds on each site, later removing two of the seedlings and leaving the strongest to grow on.

*Colin Williams*

## Eat the Seasons – May

**Vegetables** - Asparagus, Broccoli, Carrots, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, New Potatoes, Peas, Radishes, Rocket, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress, Wild Nettles

**Fruit** - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

**Herbs** - Basil, Chervil, Chives, Coriander, Dill, Oregano, Mint, Nasturtium, Parsley (Curly), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Tarragon

**Meat** – Lamb, Wood Pigeon

**Fish** - Cod, Coley, Crab, Haddock, Langoustine, Plaice, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Whelks, Whitebait

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

# Saturday at Cannon Hall

Hi, in a few minutes of my spare time I got all nostalgic – so here we go....

We're pining now for Cannon Hall  
Saturday isn't the same at all  
Pavilion Cafe out of bounds  
No Stella and Ann flitting around  
A sausage sandwich with tommyk  
That would really make our day  
Cappuccino large and frothy  
Better than any other coffee  
Coronavirus go away  
And give us back our Saturday

*By Clarkey*



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# Tim Brooke-Taylor - continued

Tim was at the heart of British comedy for 6 decades, performing and writing many of the sketches. The first success was *I'm sorry, I'll read that again* and he then appeared on *Braden Beat* and joined David Frost's show *That was the week that was* which he also toured with in the USA. Over his career, he appeared in 25 TV shows including some of the episodes of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and 8 films including *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. His most notable TV success was in *The Goodies* with friends Bill Oddie and Graeme Garden, a show which ran for over 10 years. But for many, he will always be remembered for his radio work with *I'm sorry, I'll read that again* running for 10 years and his longest lasting role on the radio show *I'm sorry I haven't a clue* where he was a panellist for nearly 50 years.

Tim married Christine Weadon in 1968 and they settled in Berkshire where they had 2 sons, Ben and Edward. Tim's hobbies included cricket and he played for Lord Taverners XI and MCC President's XI and also golf. He was elected Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University in 1979 and was appointed OBE in 2011.

Following the news of Tim's death, Tim's cousin, Robin Bursell, wrote to me "*Tim was a really nice, charming and natural person, utterly devoid of the inflated ego of so many of his peers; not "Showbizzy" in the slightest, and as my wife just remarked, a kind benign man*".

Timothy Julian Brooke-Taylor OBE (17 July 1940 – 12 April 2020)

*Photos copyright BBC*

**Andrew Robinson**

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## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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

# ERIC EYRE

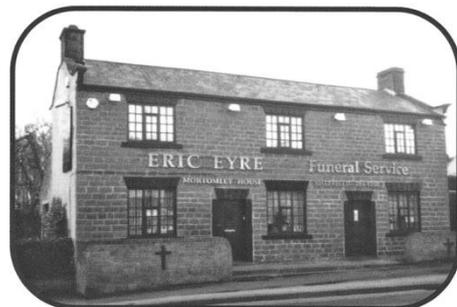
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# It is time to eat Grass!

**Asparagus**, or Garden Asparagus, plural for Asparagi, folk name **Sparrow Grass**, scientific name *Asparagus officinalis*, a perennial flowering plant species in the genus *Asparagus*. Its young shoots are used as a spring vegetable.

It was once classified in the lily family, like the related *Allium* species, onions and garlic. However, genetic research places Lilies, *Allium*, and *Asparagus* in three separate families. Sources differ as to the spread of *Asparagus*, but it generally includes most of Europe and western temperate Asia where it is widely cultivated as a spring vegetable crop.

*Asparagus* has been used as a vegetable owing to its distinct flavour, and in medicine due to its diuretic properties and its purported function as an aphrodisiac. It is pictured as an offering on an Egyptian frieze dating to 3000 BC. In ancient times, it was also known in Syria and in Spain. Greeks and Romans ate it fresh when in season, and dried the vegetable for use in winter. Roman Epicureans froze its sprouts high in the Alps for the Feast of Epicurus. Emperor Augustus created the "Asparagus Fleet" for hauling the vegetable, and coined the expression "faster than cooking asparagus" for quick action



The British asparagus season is tantalizingly brief, but the quality is frequently exceptional.

## **Preparation and Cooking**

Wash in cold water and remove the bottom ends of the stalks (with fresh asparagus they will snap off cleanly). Boil or steam quickly until just tender, around 3 to 5 minutes depending on thickness.

Traditionally served with hollandaise sauce, asparagus picked just a day or so ago requires minimal messing with. Enjoy it with a drizzle of olive oil, a twist of black pepper and perhaps a few shavings of Parmesan cheese. Or my favourite – served with two gently poached eggs (Duck eggs are best), a knob of butter and some crusty bread.

**Miscellany** - Early in the twentieth century, Professor Ikeda of Tokyo Imperial University wrote that "There is a taste which is common to asparagus, tomatoes, cheese and meat but which is not one of the four well-known tastes of sweet, sour, bitter and salty." He went on to identify that this distinctive taste originates from glutamic acid (or glutamate) and he named the taste umami. The existence of this 'fifth taste' has only recently gained acceptance in the West, where awareness of it is now increasing. Asparagus also makes you urine smell, but not everyone can smell it - 74% can and 26% cannot.

# Ecclesfield Library - Run by Volunteers

Unfortunately, our library has to remain closed at the present time

## Great News

Our library has received £ 1752 from the Co-op Community Fund to buy new books for the library.

Our thanks go to the Co-op, and it's members, for supporting us.



If you have any suggestions for books you would like to see in the library then please email us at [ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com)

# **LIBRARIES** SHEFFIELD

We continue to provide online library services via our e-library and a simple registration process to become a member visit:

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For updates to library services including the Home Library Service check our website, our [shefflibraries.blogspot.com](http://shefflibraries.blogspot.com) and our social media channels

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/shefflibraries](http://www.facebook.com/shefflibraries)

and Twitter: [www.twitter.com/SheffLibraries](http://www.twitter.com/SheffLibraries)

For our online book club visit [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

We are sorry that we are having to close our doors and look forward to welcoming you back to our libraries and Archives as soon as we can.

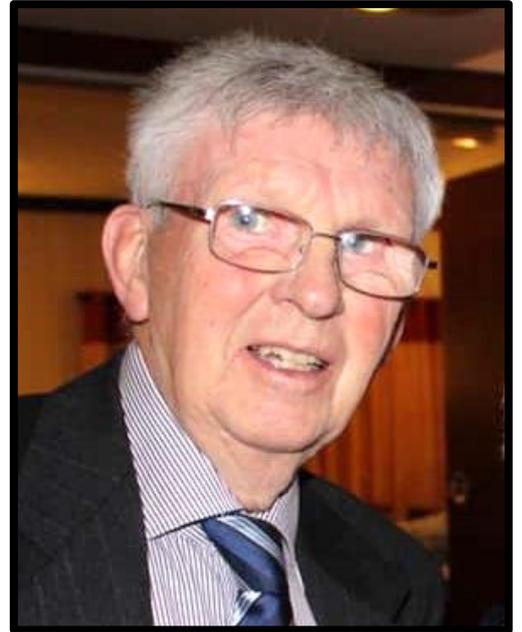
Best Wishes -Sheffield Libraries and Archives

# Whitley Hall Cricket Club

The game of cricket has been suspended until at least June this year – more news next month.

It is with great sadness that Whitley Hall announces the passing of our President Desmond ‘Des’ Childs who has died following COVID-19 complications in hospital.

The cricket club originated in Whitley Lane in the late 1800s and moved to Ecclesfield in 1925. Since then, the Baxter Family, initially inspired by George Baxter (who was also a churchwarden at St. Mary’s), has had a key role in building up the club. George’s sons were all involved, in particular Ike Baxter.



A stalwart of the club as player, committee member, ground keeper, Secretary, Chairman and latterly President of our club and a devoted “Whitley Wizard”, Des became key in the club’s development both on and off the field. He has been a friendly and wise advisor/sounding board for recent developments including the new scoreboard building and pavilion and the outfield levelling.

Des married Christine Baxter, daughter of Ike Baxter and all of their children have been involved at the club at various levels with daughter Jane the current Financial Secretary.

Des was a fiercely determined man, always friendly and gentle, never short of an opinion but always with the best for his family and Whitley Hall at heart.

Des was also a much-loved leader of the local Christmas Carol sings. Des’s father-in-law, Ike Baxter, started the Black Bull sings of this popular local tradition around 1950. Following Ike, Des took on leading the carols for around 20 years. There is a video on the Whitley Hall CC Facebook site showing the ever popular carol “Hark Hark What News” from 2018 and at the end of the video Des says “Grand Old Lad” – a commendation of a carol well sung!

The current social distancing rules limit services to a few close family only. But the procession will pass both the Black Bull and the Cricket Club and a tribute will be expressed on the boundary when members will stand 2 metres apart.

Des will be sadly missed and he now joins the great cricket critics bench in the sky!

***Andrew Robinson***

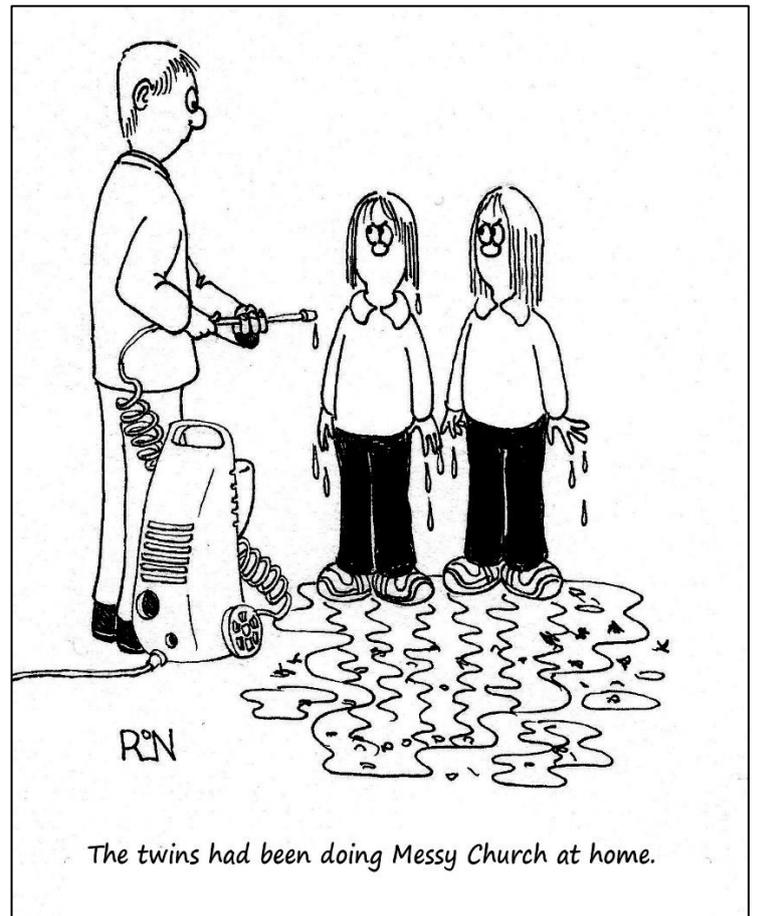
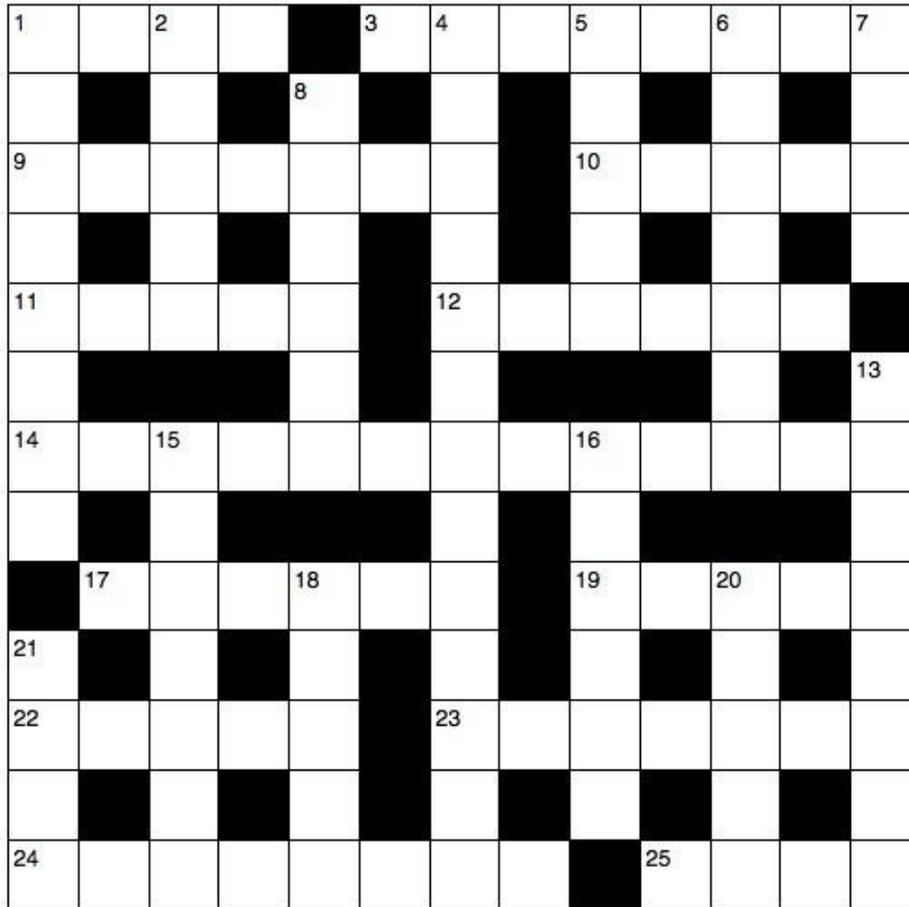
# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)  
3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)  
9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)  
10 Group of eight (5)  
11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)  
12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)  
14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)  
17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)  
19 Attend to (3,2)  
22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)  
23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)  
24 Rule of sovereign (8)  
25 Test (anag.) (4)

## Clues Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)  
2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)  
4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)  
5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)  
6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)  
7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)  
8 Minister of religion (6)  
13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)  
15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)  
16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)  
18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)  
20 Establish by law (5)  
21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)



# Prayers and Poems Page

## Faith in a crisis

If a crisis is coming to stay  
Getting worse, with each passing day  
It's ever so easy  
To get somewhat queasy  
When normality passes away!

If the shelves are devoid of all rolls  
And the internet's peopled by trolls  
Don't tremble and fear,  
Shed no frightened tear  
For God the Almighty controls!

If your eyesight with tears is blurred  
It may not quite yet have occurred  
That God through the years  
Has dried up our tears:  
So see what it says in His Word:

The people, surrounded by sand  
En route to that old Promised Land  
No food did they lack  
For God had their back  
He had their nutrition well planned!

Jesus cared, as the family cried  
For the daughter of Jairus had died  
He entered her room  
Said 'Talitha koum'  
And she rose and stood there by His side!

Just two of the Bible's great tales  
That show us that God never fails  
To come to our aid  
If we've sought Him and prayed  
When the devil with evil assails.

So do not be scared, but be smart -  
No virus can tear us apart  
From God up above  
Who shows us such love  
So be of good courage and heart!

*By Nigel Beeton*

---

**Editor:** Prayers on the coronavirus can be found on the Church of England website at: [Resource](#) By Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference. If you use these poems, please give an acknowledgement.

## In His shadow

(Based on Psalm 91)

As we dwell in the shadow of Mighty God  
We will know all the blessings that He will bring,  
His faithfulness will be our shield  
Under the covering of His wings.

Protected by His sheltering love  
Our refuge we take in Him each day,  
If we call on His Name His answer will come  
As angels will guard us in all our ways.

What comfort and peace we all can know  
That God Himself will hold us fast,  
And keep us safe engulfed in His love  
Until these days of danger have passed.

*By Megan Carter*

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## We are your people

For the Christian community  
We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

## Give us strength

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
Amen.

*Both by Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference.*

## The Churchyard – Issue 15

In 1839 when Dr. Gatty first came to Ecclesfield the churchyard was in a deplorable state. Whilst appreciating the fine exterior of the Church he was shocked to find the Sexton's three heifers feeding amongst the graves, the unkept appearance and the broken gates. He long remembered the embarrassment when Sir Charles Dodsworth, Bart., paid a surprise visit to locate and see the tomb of the Sylvester family from whom he was descended. The alter tomb stands close to the south wall of the Church, east of the door to the transept, and is now most conspicuous, but neither the Vicar nor the Sexton could find it as it was covered with rubbish and cinders from the stoves. The only part of the yard that attracted any attention was the broad flagged path from Burying Lane (now Priory Road) to the porch. It was a favourite resort of the aged and invalid who came to meditate. At that time the yard had not been extended to the present lych gate and the path terminated at a turnstile.

In Dr. Gatty's words: - "The sepulchre, which received our Lord's Body after death was in a garden - "there was a garden, and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid'. This brief account ought to set a pattern for the treatment of every churchyard or cemetery — green sward, and shrubs, and flowers, if you will". He would be pleased if he could visit our churchyard now, but he would not be too happy at the appearance of the extensions across Priory Road.

It was on the 1st April, 1873, that the Archbishop of York consecrated the additional cemetery across the road. The land was owned and was given by the Duke of Norfolk who, in spite of the fact that he was a member of the Roman Catholic faith, took a personal interest in the happenings of the parish. He was asked, for 'God's acre' and that is the area that was given. The cost of building the walls, which amounted to £331-19-3, was raised by voluntary contribution, the iron gates were given by Mrs. Smith of Barnes Hall, and the evergreens and lime trees planted by the wall sides were the offerings of Mr. W. H. Strouts, a churchwarden who was later buried there. Having seen the 'muddle and confusion of the graves of the old churchyard the Vicar was determined that this should not happen in the new acre. He consulted the clerk to the Burngreave Burial Board who advised that the whole ground be mapped on a plan and every grave plot be numbered, so that the Sexton could preserve due regularity in the interments. It was ruled that no new grave was to be dug at a less depth than eight feet.

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  
www.grenosidesingers.co.uk

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some  
Sundays and weekdays.  
Please contact Steve Fletcher if you wish  
to play or learn.  
Secretary – Steve Fletcher 245 2406  
e-mail – fletcher177@hotmail.com  
www.whitleyhallcricketclub.co.uk

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





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