

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine November 2020

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First Words

November is here and still we are in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic - when will it ever end?!

I am pleased to say that work on the disabled access is progressing well. This means that for a few weeks the Thursday morning service will be broadcast only - watch out for notices about this on the weekly sheet.

Congratulations to those newly elected to the PCC and wardens: Jo Hawksworth is the new Churchwarden, there are four new PCC Members: Malcolm Johnson; Margaret Myers; Judith Nicholson (all for 3 years) and Maureen Lambert (for 2 years). Thank you all for standing.

On **Monday 2nd Nov at 7.30pm** the new **PCC** will meet in Church.
Sunday 8th November is Remembrance Sunday. There will be a shorter, outdoor service starting at **10.30am**, the Act of Remembrance will be at 11am as usual. Please pray for good weather!

On **Monday 16th November at 7pm** the **Fabric team** will meet in Church.

Advent Sunday falls on the **29th November**. There will be a special Advent Service at **10am**.

Finally, the ministry team will be meeting this month (no date is set yet) to plan Advent and Christmas. This year the celebrations will be very different, but we need to plan how we are going to be able to keep these very special seasons. The meeting will be open to anyone from Church who would like to help us to plan some events to brighten up the winter evenings as we remember one again the birth of Christ.

God bless you,

Tim



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

Front Cover – The colour of war – Poppies on a war memorial wall – source unknown

Back Cover – View through St. Mary's lych gate
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Prayer for the Month

Psalm 6:2-4

*Show favour to me, Lord, for my strength fails;
Lord, heal me, for my body is racked with pain.*

I am utterly distraught.

When will you act, Lord?

Return, Lord, deliver me;

save me, for your love is steadfast.

Most liturgies, prayers and hymns that we use in Church when we worship tend to be, with only a few exceptions, all ‘in the same key.’ They are songs and prayers of worship, praise and thanksgiving; their keynote is joy.

Thanksgiving, praise and worship are important. In Philippians Paul tells us to rejoice in the Lord (Phil 4:4). But what about the times of doubt and pain, the times when our hearts are broken and heaven seems silent?

Although we rarely use them in Church services, the Psalms give us prayers for every situation and occasion and feeling. There are Psalms in which the writer cries out to God in despair; Psalms that ask where God is when the ground is cut from under our feet; Psalms of lament.

I think that it matters that these prayers are in the prayer-book of the Bible. The Psalms were Jesus’ own prayer book. As He died on the Cross it was Psalm 22 that Jesus prayed “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me...”

These Psalms remind us that faith is not an insurance policy against illness or disaster. Not many of the great saints and examples of faith in the Bible had an easy life, nor did Jesus. They had no hesitation in sharing with God the negative experiences that they had to endure. And as Christians we do not have to have a constant smile upon our faces!

Permanent happiness is neither an indicator of our faith or of the presence of the Holy Spirit! Prayer should be honest; God’s skin is not so thin that we have to worry about upsetting Him! When I read the Psalms, I am struck by the honesty of the prayers. God knows our pains and our doubts and even our anger, God can handle all of our emotions.

The book of Psalms gives us prayers for every occasion, and situation. When I have no words of my own, I often turn to the Psalms.

And in 2020, I suspect that we have all experienced more than our fair share of doubts, we have reason to lament and cry out to God.

The book of Psalms is not just Jesus' prayer book - it is ours too. It is only by being open and honest to the God who knows our deepest thoughts that we will grow in relationship and in trust. This year especially I have had many reasons to give thanks that the Psalms are part of our Bible.

God bless,

Tim

Psalm 6 www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%206&version=NRSVA

Psalm 22 www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+22+&version=NRSVA

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God and The Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture...

He gave us eyes to see them:

Tobias, The Angel and The Dog, by Andrea del Verrocchio

‘He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.’

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.



A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month's painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father's blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel's arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While 'dog' is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life. Dostoevsky wrote 'Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.' We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

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St James the Least of All

On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through 'Onward Christian Soldiers' at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Help needed in the church garden

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

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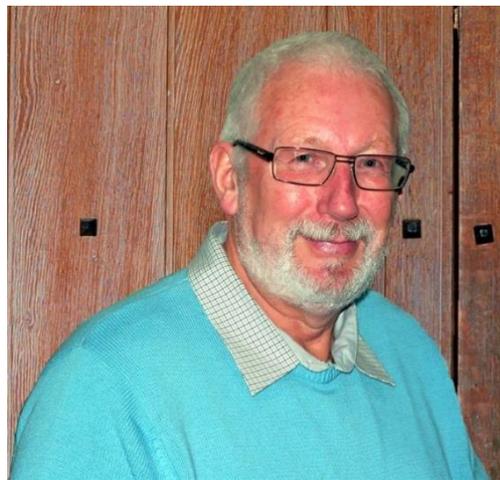
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On Standing Down

Thought I'd had better thank everyone who has supported me over the last 6-years or so being a member of PCC, a church warden, and chair of Fabric.

Writing to you all in the magazine seems the best way to do just that. I have really enjoyed my time of being a warden as I said in my fabric reports from Trish's time, with Daniel, the interregnum, and now with Tim.



Interregnum after Daniel - Some of the time in interregnum was making wedding bookings with Andrew Robinson, this was really interesting to say the least. Obviously, due to data protection I can't reveal names, but meeting some couples was a real eye opener. I did at one point have to have a police interview about an arranged marriage. (not mine)

Just one last thing I hope the couples if they are reading this are still together and Andrew and myself helped in your future.

Chair of Fabric of a Grade 1 listed building - Being chair of fabric was the hardest part of my time as warden but there again you can't imagine how it is to feel that arranging a grant to repair the North and South Aisles, and Nave roofs of over £250k and seeing it through to completion. Then later for you all to agree to a design to create a level access into St Mary's was also a great moment inside myself to see the work start.

Time being warden was a pleasure even though sometimes when I got home, I had to 'kick the cat' after something that was said on a Sunday morning.

To serve as a warden as most of you will understand you do have a responsibility to keep the church running smoothly and everyone has an opinion that they feel they need to share with wardens. So, to anyone who may want to be a part of helping to run the church, don't be afraid to step up, you won't be on your own.

I have had a lot of help in full filling my duties from fellow PCC members, the other church wardens, fabric team members, readers, and vicars, and not forgetting my wife Lynda.

If you read this before the 4th November, I am having a pacemaker fitted if you read this after the 4th November it hopefully will be in and working, but not with Poundland batteries Lynda.

Thanks, Michael

Thought for the Month

The Second of November is usually kept as All Souls Day. It is a time to remember with thanks those people that we continue to love but who have passed from this world into eternity. At All Souls tide we thank the God who created them for the good and the love that they brought into our lives, and in hope we commend them to the loving mercy of the Father.

Usually, on the Sunday nearest to All Souls Day we have our annual memorial service. WE invite those whose funerals have taken place in the past year to a service of thanksgiving and commemoration. This year, that service will be postponed until the pandemic is ended.

At All Souls we gather in sorrow at the loss of those we love, but we also gather as people of hope, which is why one of the most important parts of the service is the lighting of candles as “wordless prayers” for those who have died.

We remember Jesus in whose Cross God takes our death and suffering into Himself; we celebrate the resurrection, Christ’s defeat of death once and for all, and as we celebrate the victory of the empty tomb, we claim the hope of that victory for ourselves and for all who mourn; we claim that victory for those who have departed this life.

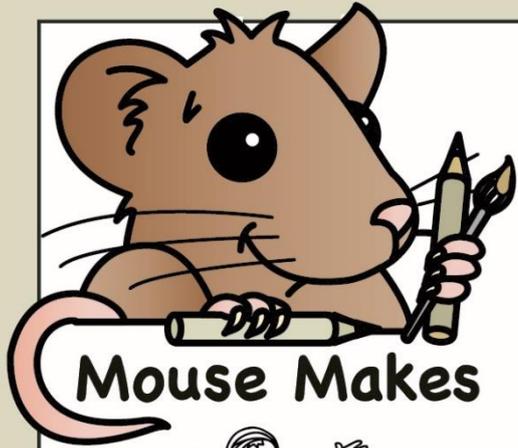
Christianity is a faith of hope: hope in life, in death and beyond death. At All Souls services we are reminded that we were all made, not just for time, but also for eternity; not only for this world, but for the kingdom of God. And strengthened by this faith and hope, we can face life with its mixture of joys and sorrows, we can face even the heartbreak of death, without fear.

In 2020, as the world struggles and stumbles through a pandemic, as we mourn the loss of those who have died in this year, and as we face the uncomfortable fact of our own mortality; we remember that, as Christians we are a people of hope. This hope is not in ourselves or in our own achievements or potential. Our hope is in Christ.

And, as Christians, this hope that we have is not for ourselves alone, but it is given to us to share with those who struggle, those who have no hope.

So, on the 2nd of November, wherever you are, light a candle, give thanks for those people who you love who have passed from this world, and pray for those who have no hope; that the light of Christ will fill their hearts and minds, banishing fear and despair.

God bless,
Tim



REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

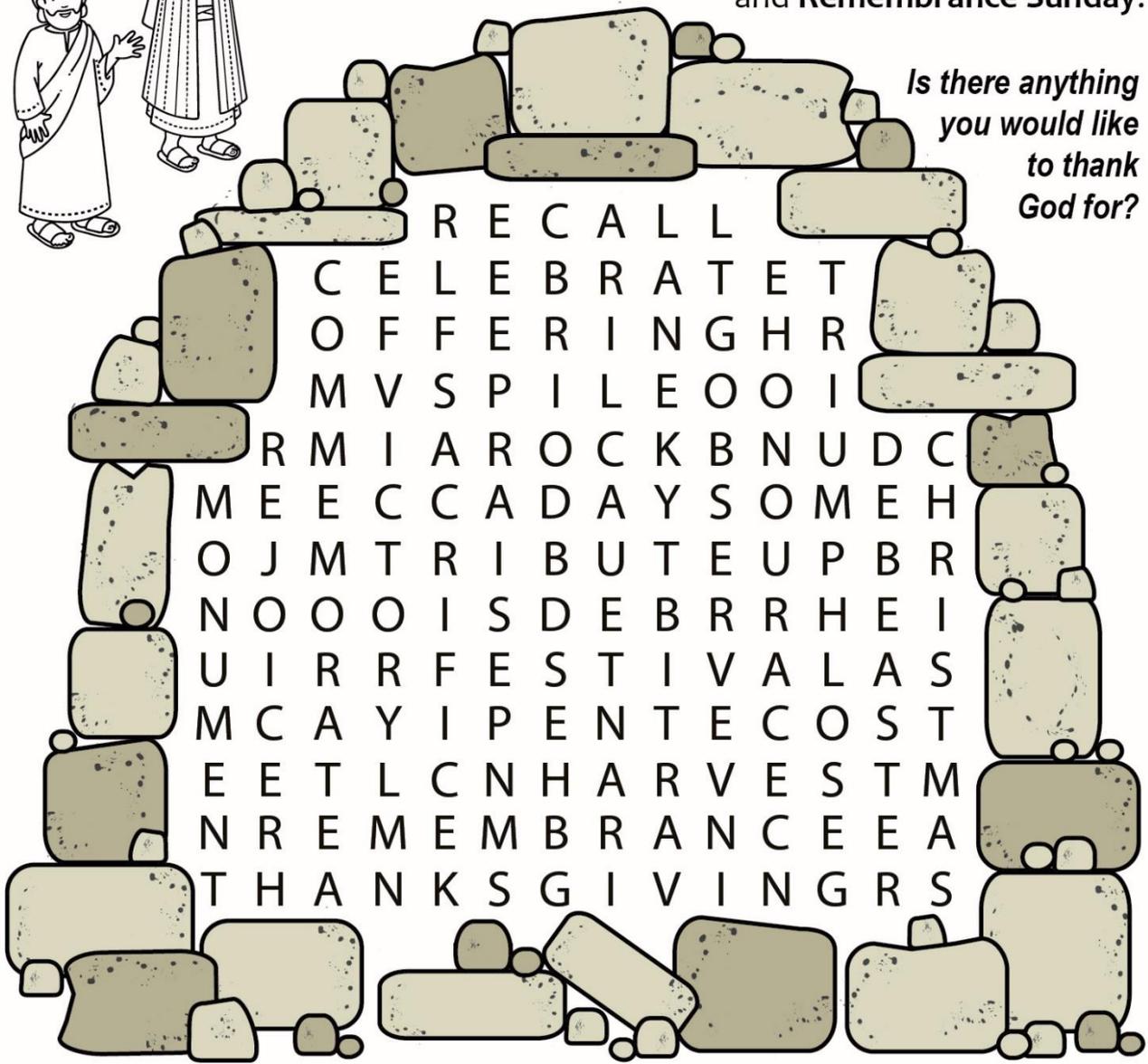


READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything you would like to thank God for?



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Editor's Lockdown Humour

I put the [thingamabob](#) inside the [whatchamacallit](#) turned the [doohickey](#) and the wuteveritis still doesn't work – any ideas?

Apparently you can't use 'Beefstew' as a password – It's not [stroganoff](#)...

Have you heard about the evil group of men who control all the worlds cheese? The [Hallouminati](#).

I was sitting drinking [coffee](#) in my [slippers](#) this morning, when I thought to myself... I really need to wash some [mugs](#).

Has Covid-19 forced you to wear glasses and a mask at the same time? You may be entitled to [Condensation](#).

Husband - "Okay, time to tackle the 'to do' list! Let's see... Monday". Wife - "but today is Wednesday". Husband - "Oh well, better luck next week"

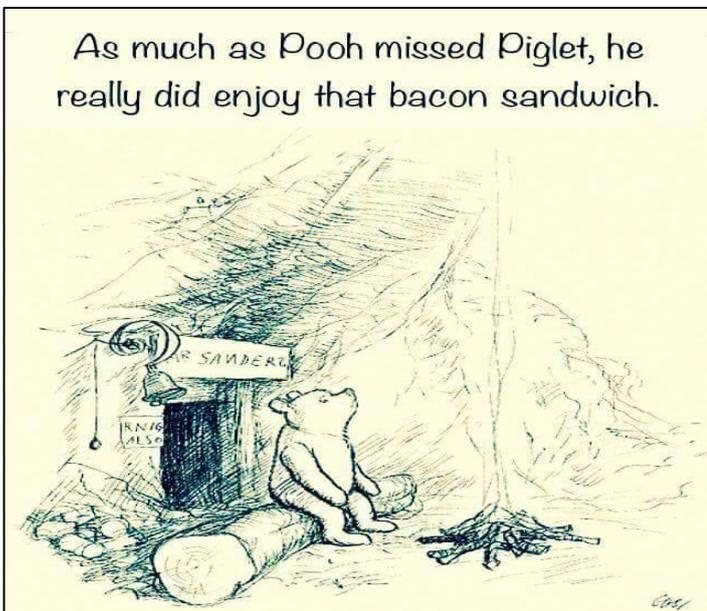
In filling out an application for a [flu jab](#), where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

Change is inevitable, except from a [vending machine](#).

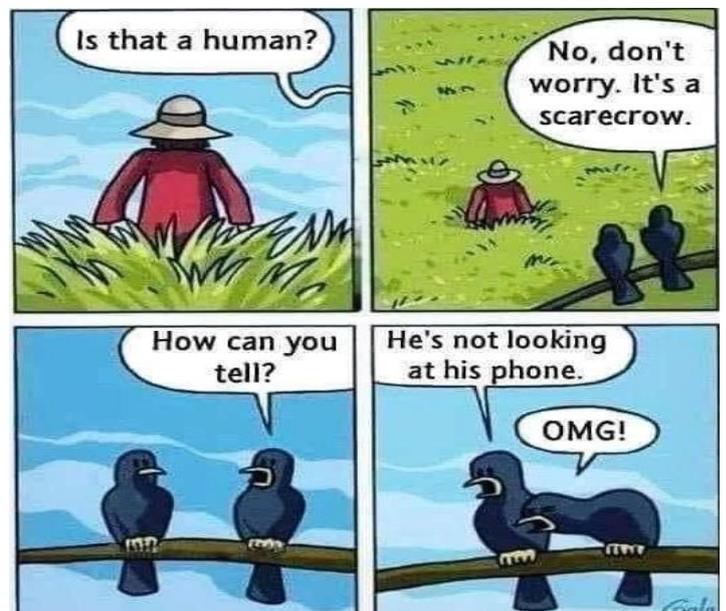
I never finish anyth...



If you know the Relationship between these 2 objects, you are Old and at Risk – Stay Home – Stay Safe



As much as Pooh missed Piglet, he really did enjoy that bacon sandwich.



From the Registers

Funerals

Friday 2nd October

Patricia (Pat) Ashall.

Grant her, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace.

Nigel Womersley - It is with sadness I have to report the death of Nigel Womersley, he was for many years a valued and much-loved member of Priory Players. He was secretary for many of those years working diligently to move the society forward, he was in at least 25 full length plays between 1962 and 1991, he also directed plays, music hall productions, and wrote a wonderful pantomime, (Aladdin) which the society performed twice under his direction, once at Ecclesfield Junior School and the second time at the Eppic not long after it opened.

He also found time to fully participate in the conversion of the theatre from the Trinity Methodist Chapel onto what we all know and love today and helped to raise lots of money during the difficult years of the conversion. I do appreciate not many of the now membership will have had the opportunity to meet Nigel, but for those of us who had the pleasure of his company, sharing his dry wit and enthusiasm for the society, he will be long remembered.
R.I.P. Nigel.

The Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

Soldier in American Civil War

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.

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to you...? Why have you made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

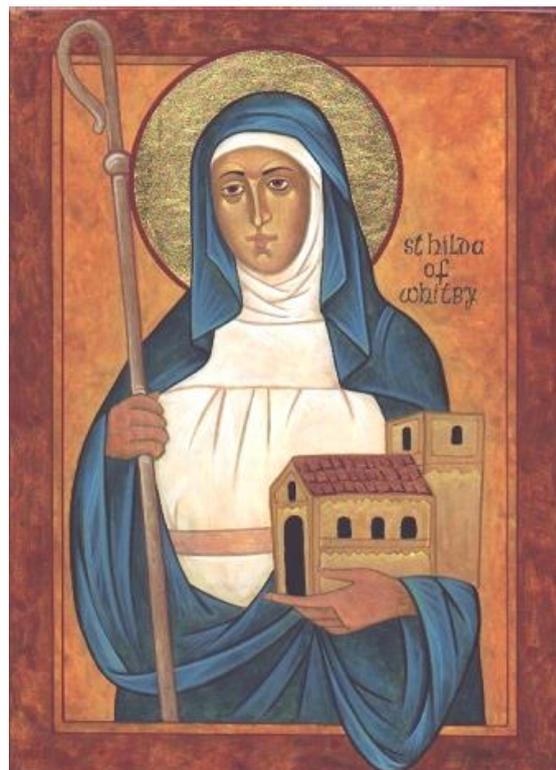
This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

Saint of the month - 19th November: Hilda Abbess of Whitby

Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry.

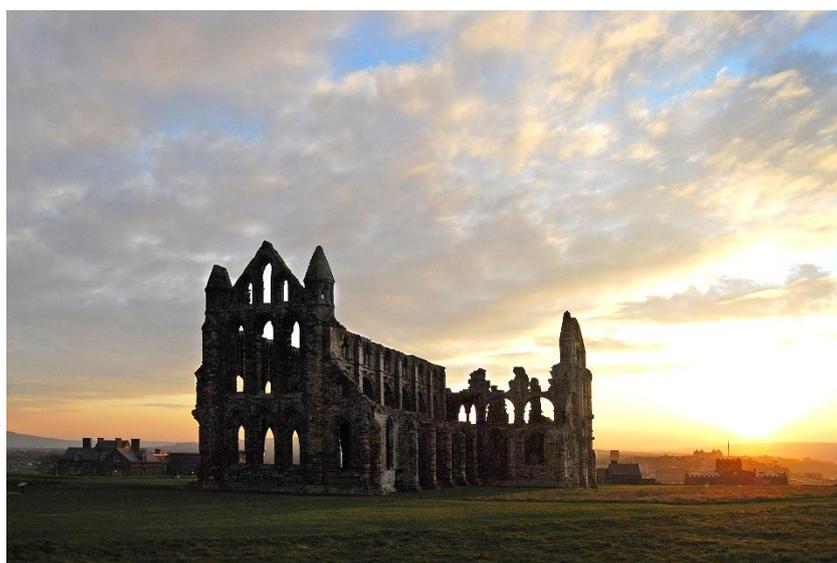
She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections.

In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria.



Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649.

Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at Streasnaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with even five bishops trained there.



Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adapt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to

accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.

Quotations for November

November also brings us Remembrance...

War creates no absolutely new situation: it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. – C S Lewis

War does not determine who is right - only who is left. – (probably) [Bertrand Russell](#)

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. – [Harry Emerson Fosdick](#)

The Church knows nothing of a sacredness of war. The Church which prays the 'Our Father' asks God only for peace. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Some miscellaneous observations on daily life and other people...

I have learned now that while those who speak about one's miseries usually hurt, those who keep silence hurt more. – [C S Lewis](#)

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough, nor good enough, to be trusted with unlimited power. – Charles Caleb Colton

A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory. – [Mark Twain](#)

He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts; for support rather than illumination. - Andrew Lang

He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them. - [James Reston](#)

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go. - Oscar Wilde

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TRUSTist

The Gardening Year – November 2020

As November is a quiet month in the garden, I would like to remind readers about the value of fertilisers. It has been shown that something like fifteen or sixteen substances appear to be vital, from the gardens point of view however, the four most important foods are Nitrogen, phosphorous, Potassium (potash) and calcium, with magnesium running these a close fifth and Sulphur, Iron, Boron, Manganese, Copper, Zinc and Molybdenum tagging along somewhere in the rear. It is common to refer to the first four as Major and the rest as trace elements. This is a fair enough description provided it is understood that all are equally essential to healthy plant growth and that what makes the first group take precedence over the second is simply that these elements are needed in greater quantity. The first four nitrogen, phosphorous potash and calcium are most likely to be deficient in soil and are in consequence those which the gardener will most frequently need to supply. **What Each Food Does – Nitrogen** has its most marked effect upon rate and vigour of growth and colour of foliage. When nitrogen is in short supply plants tend to be stunted, leaves are small and pale or bluish in colour. Add Nitrogen in a suitable form and the rate of growth immediately increases and leaves become large, lush, and dark green. **Phosphorous** also has a considerable effect on growth though not quite so markedly as in the case of Nitrogen. Nevertheless, when phosphorous is very deficient there will be many of the symptoms of nitrogen starvation. Perhaps the most spectacular effect of phosphorous is on roots which grow freely when it is abundant but are poor and stunted when it is lacking. **Potash** is, however, the principle fruit forming fertiliser. When there is insufficient Potash in the soil fruits tend to be poorly coloured and lacking in flavour, faults which disappear directly potash is added. Potash also has a striking effect on foliage for when it is deficient leaves particularly of fruit trees, become scorched at the edges, much as they would be scorched by drought or excessive heat. Calcium is the element which the gardener adds to the soil when he limes it, it enters into the constitution of all plants and is essential to them. Lime must be regarded as one of the major soil foods because of its importance in the soil itself where it flocculates clay and corrects acidity thereby stimulating bacterial activity and aiding the liberation of other plant foods.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – November

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

Fruit - Apples, Clementines, Cranberries, Passion Fruit, Pears, Pomegranate, Quince, Satsumas

Herbs - Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Cob Nuts, Hazelnuts, Rosemary, Sage, Walnuts

Meat - Beef, Duck, Goose, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Lamb, Mallard, Partridge, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison, Wood Pigeon

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

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

80 years on, we still need courage and endurance

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during those months, 80 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did not prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected 'rule of a 1000 years' lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

Sadly, 80 years on, the world is still at war. Man's greed, arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Coronavirus, economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different from Hitler, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same.

It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to 'walk more nearly' and 'follow Him more clearly'. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever ways lie open before us.

Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.

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Mothers' Union

Dear Members

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

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

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

Best wishes to everyone for a safe winter.

Jennifer Armeson

Treasurer

Tele: 0114 245 6065

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

T	H	A	N	K	S		B	A	N	N	E	R	
R		S		A				N		E		E	
E	S	H	E	R		A	Z	A	R	I	A	H	
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C	O	M	P	A	R	E		I	S	H	M	A	
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C					B		A				A	G	
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ERIC EYRE

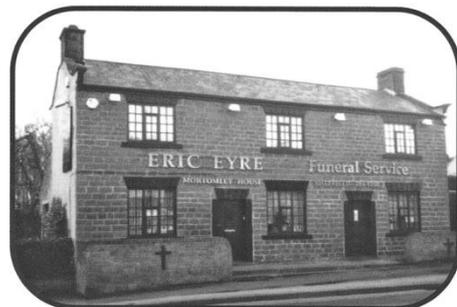
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Funeral Plans 



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



It is time to eat Mussels

A thalassic design classic: turmeric-coloured morsels stunningly presented in raven shells. But they don't just look good. There's the wonderful percussive rhythm of mussels being gently shaken in the pan and poured into a large bowl. With head over the bowl you breathe in the tantalizing sea-fresh steam. Savour it. And then get to the task at hand; extracting succulent offerings from gaping shells and soaking up the fragrant broth with pieces of crusty-soft bread. THE complete sensory food experience.

Archaeological findings suggest that mussels have been used as a food for over 20,000 years. They have been cultivated in Europe since 1235 when Patrick Walton, an Irish sailor shipwrecked on the French coast, hung up nets in order to catch fish and found that mussels were sticking themselves to the poles supporting the nets. Mussels are bivalves (molluscs with two hinged shells). They filter iron from seawater to produce the adhesive plaque they use to attach themselves to rocks and other objects. The type of mussels prevalent in UK waters have spread throughout the northern hemisphere by hitching lifts on the hulls of boats.

Nutrition: Mussels are one of the most well-rounded foods to include in your diet, high in zinc, iron and other minerals, vitamins A and B12. A fantastic source of protein, low in calories and low in fat. Prepared in a classic moules marinière or in a more adventurous Thai curry, or simply steamed. **Buying** - Look for bright, clean, tightly closed unbroken shells packed in net. Fresh mussels smell briny-fresh, not 'fishy' and are best eaten within a day of buying. Store for up to two days – mussels are alive and need air to survive, place net bag of mussels into a large basin and store in the bottom of the fridge. **Preparation** - Throwing away any broken shells and discard any open mussels that don't close with a sharp tap. Pull out the beards and scrub the shells under cold running water using a stiff brush. Swish around in two water changes to expel any grit. Discard any mussels that haven't opened after cooking.

Classic Moules marinière serves 2

1kg live mussels
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
150ml white wine
150ml double cream
Small bunch of parsley chopped
Crusty bread, to serve



Method

Take a large heavy-based pan with a snug-fitting lid and heat the olive oil. Add the onion and garlic (optional) and cook over low heat for about 5 minutes until soft. Pour in the wine and as it boils and the alcohol burns off, add the mussels. Cover and let the mussels steam for 3–4 minutes. They are ready when the shells have opened. Add the cream and cook for 1 minute more. Scatter with parsley and serve immediately with crusty bread, remembering to discard any mussels that haven't opened.

As an alternative to the bread you can use cooked and drained spaghetti simply add it to the pan, along with the mussels. Stir until everything is combined – if using dried spaghetti start cooking the pasta at the same time as the onion, if using fresh spaghetti cook for the same time as the mussels 3-4 minutes.

Message for all MU Members

I hope you are all well and managing in the difficult situation we find ourselves in. As you know we have been unable to do any fund raising this year, and as a result we have not been able to send any money for the work of the MU either here or overseas.

However, the government has announced that any monies donated during the first week in December will be matched by them. In view of this I am asking if any of you would like to make a donation (we would need this by the last week in November) please would you either make out a cheque to 'Ecclesfield St. Mary's MU' or put your money in an envelope marked MU and put it through my letter box (21 Minster Road). You could also give it to Jennifer Armeson or myself if you see us around.

I do stress that this is completely voluntary, and no one must feel obligated in any way.

Keep safe and Keep well.
God Bless Stephanie x



Chapelton & District Probus Club

The club is continuing to meet using Zoom as the method of having virtual meetings. It is now unlikely that face to face meetings will resume until sometime in 2021, possibly after Easter. Until then, we will be continuing with virtual meetings which have proved to be successful and easy to use, even for those who are not very technical.

The September meeting had a presentation by Tim Knebel talking about "Ladybower House". 27 members heard and saw a fascinating story about a building which still stands above Ladybower Dam, slightly hidden now. The history covered most of the great steel entrepreneurs of Sheffield in the early 20th century.

Although there will be no lunch, the next meetings, will be: -

Wednesday 11th November – David Templeman "Some Ancient Suburbs of Sheffield"

Wednesday 9th December – Ian Webb "The Alaskan Trail"

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

If you are interested, please contact the secretary,
Trevor Winslow on 07966 317258 or trevor.winslow@outlook.com
Or see the website at www.chapelton-probus.org.uk

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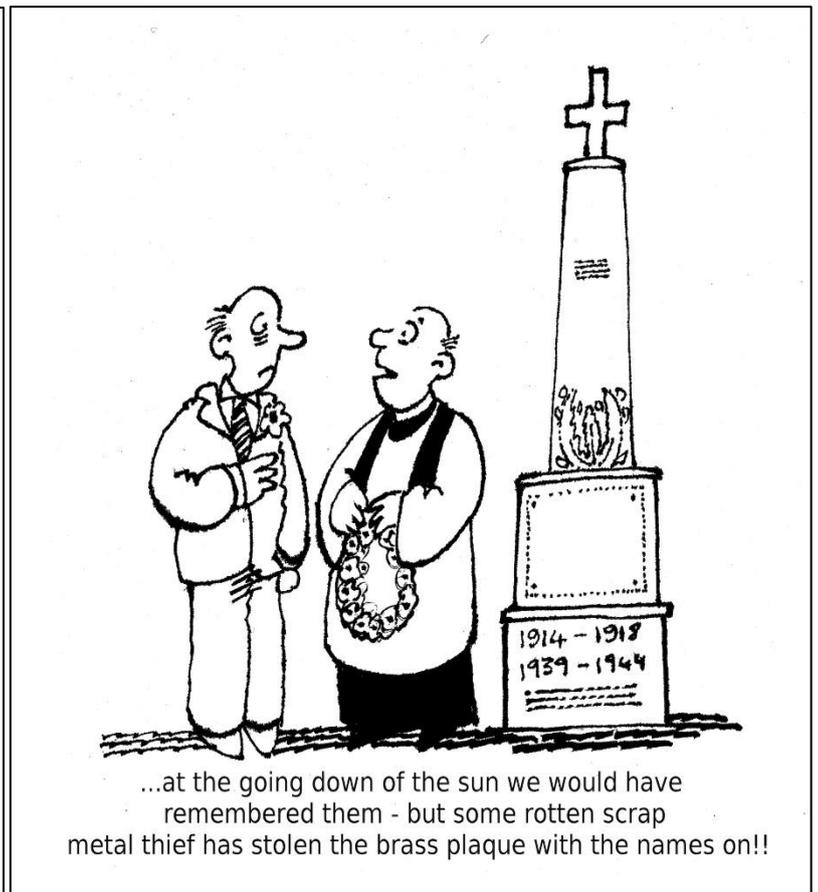
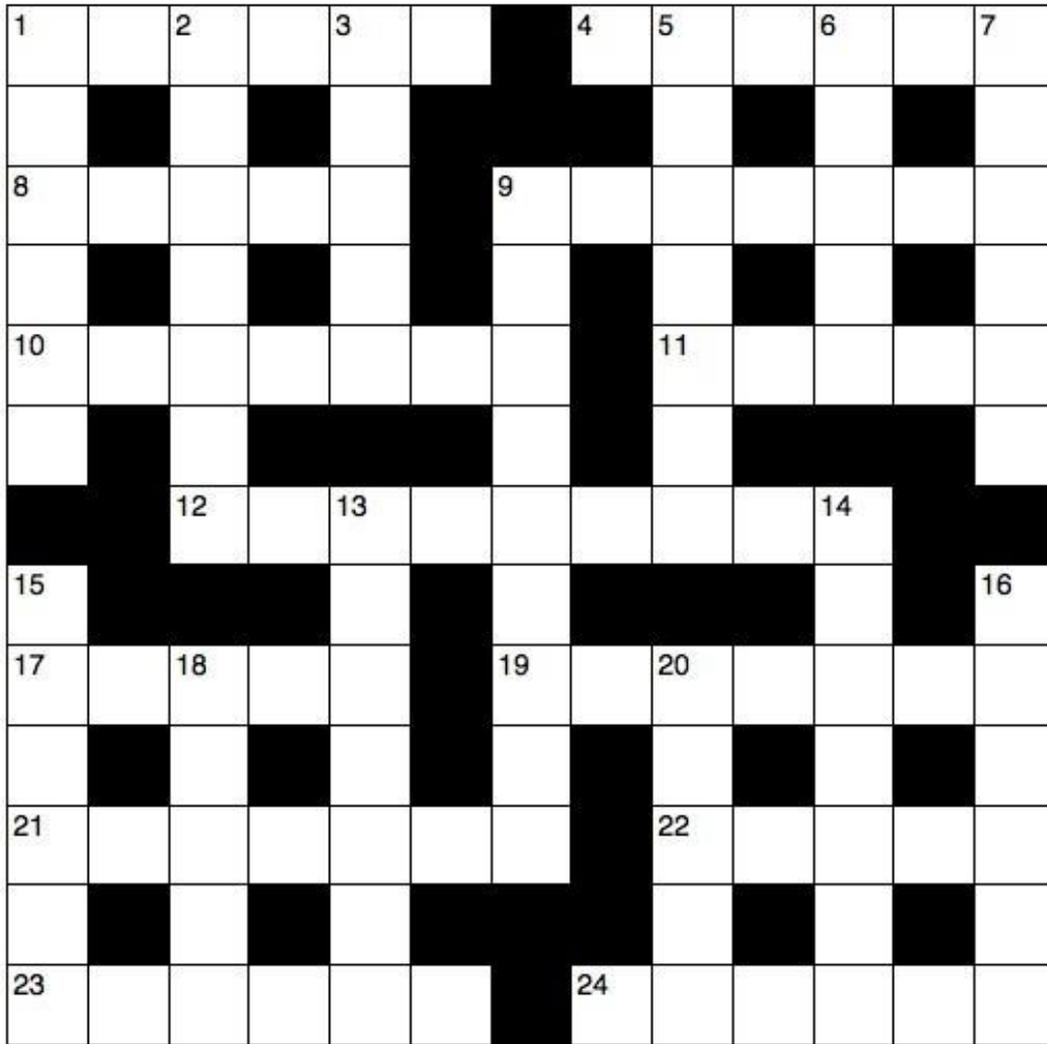
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)



Prayers and Poems Page

All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day in November naturally turn our thoughts to death and what lies beyond...

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;
The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

War and Peace

War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'

Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.

By Megan Carter

Five years ago, in November 2015, the Met office began the practice of naming storms, and the idea seems to have caught on! Apparently, you can even send suggestions to them now. Would you want one named after yourself?!

Named Storms

Deirdre, Angus, Katie, Jake
These are names which trouble make;
Gertrude, Doris, Caroline
Bring us weather less than fine!
Desmond, Erik, Imogen
Storms are named, but only when
Just like one named Abigail
They bring wind and rain and hail!

Barney, Clodagh, and Aileen
What, I wonder, does it mean
Barbara, Dylan, Eleanor
If the choice of name is poor?
Ali, Freya, Callum, Ciara
Does it make things any clearer
Jorge and Hannah, Brian too

If they name one after YOU?

By Nigel Beeton

(from) **The Brewing of Soma**

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92 – American Quaker poet)

O England, Country of my Heart's Desire

O England, country of my heart's desire,
and of the hedgerow and the village spire;
Land of thatched cottage and murmuring bees,
and wayside inns where one may take one's ease.
Of village green where cricket may be played
and fat old spaniels sleeping in the shade –
O homeland, far away across the main,
how would I love to see your face again!

From a poem by E V Lucas

Russia's new draft law bars pastors trained overseas from preaching

Russia's new draft law on freedom of conscience and religious association will make it impossible for pastors trained outside of the Russian Federation to preach in a church or even conduct home Bible study groups, warn Barnabas Fund contacts.

The bill amending Federal Law, which was recently recommended for approval by the State Duma, calls for the compulsory recertification in Russian educational institutions of pastors and "personnel of religious organisations" who have received religious education abroad, otherwise they will not be able to engage in teaching and religious activities.

Its main goal is to "prevent the participation of clergymen who have received religious education abroad and spread religious extremist ideology in the activities of religious organisations".

The new law is also intended to prevent "the involvement of members of a religious group in extremist activities and activities aimed at financing terrorism".

Sergei Ryakhovsky, head bishop of the Russian United Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith – Pentecostals (ROSHVE), said in an interview with an international news agency in September that the bill will deal a "powerful blow" to religious organisations. It "directly impedes the spread of the Gospel" and does not meet its stated goals of combating extremism, he said.

A Barnabas Fund contact said the new bill is being introduced at a time when the government is making it increasingly difficult for Christian theological educational institutions to operate.

"Over the past two years there has been an insistent campaign to revoke licences from Christian educational institutions," our contact said. "I don't know of a single university or seminary where there were no inspections and various judicial instances. They needed to prove that the government was illegally trying to revoke the licences.

"Moscow Biblical Seminary was unable to prove this, was left without a licence and was forced to close."

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
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greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday
10 am to 12 noon
Tel: Robert 0114 2461095

Friends of Ecclesfield Library

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Tel: 0114 246 3651
email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com

Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm
2nd Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 245 2780

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm
Leader - Mrs J Steel
0114 246 0218
Thursday - 5.45 - 7.00 pm
Shane Porteous
shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

The Grenoside Singers

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

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Sundays and weekdays.
Please make contact if you wish to play or
learn.
Secretary: Joe Webster, 0796 901 4592
jwebster@horburygroup.com

Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month
in Grenoside Community Centre
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Secretary Trevor Winslow 07966 317258
We are now on Zoom see
www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk

If you would like your local group advertised, please contact:
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