

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February 2021

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

*Price 60p*

# First Words

As we are once again in Lockdown services are on Facebook and meetings are via Zoom.

Every **Thursday at 9.30am** there is **Morning Worship** live on Facebook and available later on Facebook and the Church website.

Every **Sunday at 10am** there is **Parish Worship** live streamed from St Mary's also on Facebook and available later on Facebook and the Church website.

Service sheets are available on St Mary's Website.

Some people are having problems with the volume, if you are then access the services from the website as Peter is able to adjust the volume.

**Tuesday 2nd February** is the feast of the **Presentation of Christ**, also known as Candlemas. **Morning Prayer** will be streamed on the Church Facebook page at **9.30am**.

**Monday 8th February 7.30pm PCC Meeting** via Zoom. Items for inclusion to Tim by Wednesday 3rd February please.

**Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday.** There will be a service streamed from St Mary's at **7.30pm**. It might be possible to have a congregation by then - watch out for details.

**Monday 22nd February 7pm Fabric Committee Meeting** via Zoom.

**Wednesday 24th February 7.30pm Lent Course.** You are welcome to attend at Church 'in person' or via Zoom. More details on the Church website.

God bless you,

Tim



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

**Front Cover – St Mary's West End** prior to new level access **SD**

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

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# Prayer for the Month

***Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.***

(Luke 2:29-32)

This prayer forms the heart of the Gospel reading for the feast of the presentation of Christ, also known as Candlemas.

When Jesus was eight days old His parents took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer the sacrifice of the firstborn as prescribed in the Law of Moses. When they entered the Temple and ancient prophet called Simeon saw them, and saw in the baby that Mary carried the fulfilment of God's promises.

Most of the people in the Temple on that day were too busy to notice a young couple with their baby, but Simeon was waiting for this moment. He believed that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When he saw the child he saw in Him not only the fulfilment of the hopes of the Jewish people; he saw that this child was the light of God for all nations and peoples.

I pray this prayer in times of darkness, physical darkness and spiritual darkness. It is the hope of the light of Christ which the darkness has never quenched with us and for us in our times of need and distress.

I always say this prayer at the end of funerals as I am leaving the Church or Chapel.

It is significant that we have this reading and celebrate Candlemas in February. For me this is the most difficult of months - winter is still with us, the days are cold and bleak, and we don't even have Christmas to look forward to!

Candlemas reminds us of the light of Christ shining in us from God and shining through us for God into His world. And so, on the 2nd of February I will light a candle, a prayer of hope, that all who are struggling at this time will know the light of Christ, will know that darkness will not prevail and that God will always be with them and for them.

God bless,  
Tim

## Thought for the Month

*Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
God, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.*  
(Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Habakkuk was a prophet in Judea in the 7th century BC. He is known as ‘the sceptic among the prophets.’ His short prophecy raises the question of God’s righteousness: how can a just God allow the innocent to suffer at the hands of the wicked?

It has always impressed me that the Bible does not hide from these questions and challenges to faith.

continues on page 11

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# God and The Arts

*The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions'. It now hangs in a private collection.*

## Forty days and forty nights

On the 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is currently held in a private collection.



Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

# Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers romantic love.

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts and roses.

Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future.

But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren.

It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a care home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home.

Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years. Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..."

It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day.

And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage. How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

'Love is patient. Love is kind.' These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can develop over years of marriage.

Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day. So, this year, as I look at the rows of red or pink Valentine's Day cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message.

I shall seek out cards that celebrate long-term love. Cards that say something about the joys and challenges of growing older together. Cards that go beyond hearts and roses to the deeper love that transcends love's first blossoming. I just hope I can find some...

# St James the Least of All

## On why our church does not need health or safety...

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I appreciated your recent concern when you heard one of our parishioners had slipped on a gravestone. Your desire to help was entirely commendable, and I do know that sending your own church's health and safety officer to give us some advice was kindly meant. But the 200-page report was not welcome. If we implemented even half of your officer's suggestions, life would become unbearably safe.

St James the Least of All has survived perfectly well for the last 600 years without gutter cleaning inspections, path degreasing and electrical safety certificates, so I think we may survive a little longer without them. As far as I am aware, the only disaster to hit us was when Cromwell's soldiers stabled their horses in the nave – which I suspect a few of our oldest members still clearly remember.

The shock the sidesmen sometimes get when switching on the lights occurs only occasionally, is relatively mild and soon over – and if it happens when preparing for the 8am Service, helps to wake them up. The weight of the Duke of Clumber's marble sarcophagus is slowly detaching the south aisle from the rest of the church, but it is very slow – and the pews in that area are used only once a year when his relations visit from America to commemorate his death at Agincourt – which is probably just beyond remembrance of the oldest of our congregation.

Leaks from the ceiling in the north aisle are solved with a row of buckets – and even you must concede that the fungi on the oak beams look really rather attractive when the sun catches them. The sapling growing out of the spire is certainly an issue – although it looks so attractive in Spring when in blossom. As for our fire extinguishers, they were serviced when my predecessor-but-two was in office, and I have the certificate to prove it.

So, do thank your health and safety officer for all his work and tell him we will bear his recommendations in mind. Also tell him I was so sorry he slipped and broke his leg in our choir stalls while he was with us. But that bit of floor has been out of alignment since 1748, and it seems a shame to disturb it now. If only he had arrived encased in bubble wrap, it would never have happened. Perhaps you could put that on the agenda of your next health and safety meeting.

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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# God in the Sciences

By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

## Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters' but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

## Thought for the Month - Continued

*It has always impressed me that the Bible does not hide from these questions and challenges to faith. To raise questions and to challenge God is not a sign of faithlessness; it is actually a sign of a deep faith and close relationship to God. Any God who cannot cope with the questions raised by life is not worthy of our worship.*

Over the past year I have often prayed these words which come at the end of Habakkuk's prophecy. Having raised the problem of the suffering of the innocent, having questioned God's justice and righteousness, the prophet ends with a poem of deep trust in the very God that he has challenged.

Even if the disaster that he fears befalls the nation; even in times and situations when there is no 'reward' for faithfulness, "yet," writes Habakkuk, "I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation."

As we are in the middle of a third lockdown, with a new and more virulent strain of the COVID-19 virus afflicting us; as we see innocent people suffer and die, we ask questions of God; we challenge God, and yet we still trust in God.

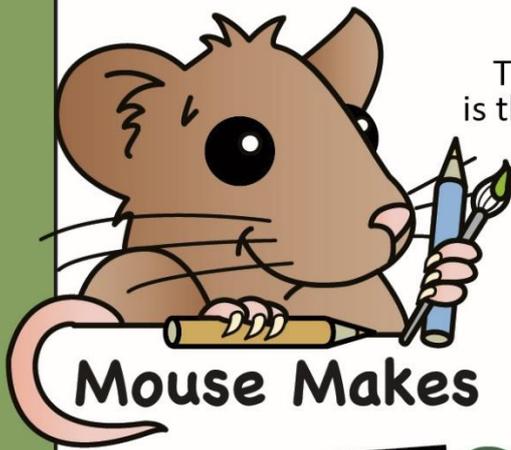
This is a very Biblical approach to faith. It is the same faith that we see in Jesus in Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday when He prays fervently that the cup of suffering might pass from Him, and yet He prays, "Your will, not mine be done." It is the same faith and trust in God that we see on the Cross, when Jesus can cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and also pray, "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

The times that we are living through raise questions for Christians. There will always be things that we are unable to understand. But even as we ask these questions and raise these doubts, we can still trust in God's presence and love.

We believe in a God of resurrection; and resurrection only comes after crucifixion!

I believe that Habakkuk's words are an expression of faith in the God of resurrection; a God who is with us in our struggles, in the pain and mess and defeat of life and who will bring us through to new and full life, either in this world or in God's eternal kingdom.

As we endure these challenging times, may we, with questions on our minds and struggles in our hearts, continue to trust in the presence of the Father in and through all things. Amen.



### WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ....

E					H
---	--	--	--	--	---

• What two things did God create first?  
Genesis 1:1

		S		
--	--	---	--	--

• What was the Earth without? Genesis 1:2  
• What came before morning? Gen 1:5

					G
--	--	--	--	--	---

• Who is the creator? Genesis 1:1  
• What was separated from light? Gen 1:4

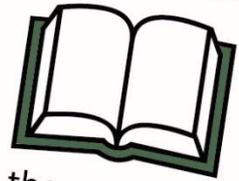
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S • Which day did God finish work? Gen 2:2  
• Who was created God's image? Gen 1:27

				H
--	--	--	--	---

• Who moved over the water? Gen 1:2

L					S
---	--	--	--	--	---



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth** commandment said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



### FIND THE CREATION PAIRS from Genesis 1 and 2

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH   | MORNING |
| LIGHT   | FRUIT   |
| DAYS    | SEA     |
| TREES   | NIGHT   |
| LAND    | FISH    |
| EVENING | YEARS   |
| ADAM    | HEAVENS |
| DAY     | DARK    |
| BIRDS   | WATER   |
| SKY     | EVE     |

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

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

Can you find these words in the word search?  
GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT  
FLY • DEEP • EARTH  
DARK • DAY • LIGHT  
NIGHT • STARS • SKY  
SEA • LAND • BIRD  
CREATURE • HUMAN  
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS  
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

# Editor's Lockdown Humour

don't forget to click on the pictures and links to learn more!



An electrician comes home late... Wife: "[Wire](#) you Insulate?" Electrician: [Watts](#) it to you? I'm [Ohm](#), aren't I."

[Synonym](#) (noun) A word used in place of the one you can't spell...

[Chocolate](#) is vital for survival. [Dinosaurs](#) didn't have chocolate and look what happened to them!

So [bored](#), I changed the [wrappers](#) round on the sweets in a box of 'Celebrations' Wife's not happy, she got her [Snickers](#) in a [Twix](#)

Join the 2-day challenge – No [Alcohol](#) on the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of [February](#) – Can you do it?

## Deliver-Who!



Your parcel will be delivered by Steve, in a white van at exactly 9:23am and a photo will be taken for prosperity. There are six stops before you. You can stalk Steve by clicking here.



Your parcel will be delivered today and if you're not in, we'll deliver it to someone else instead, like your cat. We'll make sure to let you know "Parcel was handed to customer". You, cat, on your roof, same thing, right?



We tried delivering your parcel but you weren't in. Well, you probably were, but you didn't open the door when we knocked with the force of a feather. Now you'll have to reschedule or come to us instead.



Your parcel will be delivered at some point, by someone. Might be 10am, might be 10pm, but we'll get there. And if we don't get there, we'll say we've delivered it anyway, then deliver it tomorrow instead when you're out. We'll leave it in your wheelie bin on collection day.



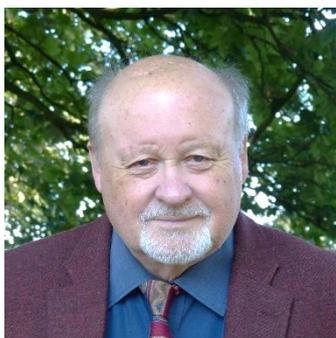
Package? Wait what? Were we supposed to deliver something today? You sure?



# From the Registers

## Funerals

Thursday 17th December	Yvonne butcher	56
Tuesday 22nd December	Jeinelle Lisa Stewart	47
Monday 11th January	Ian Pratt	87
Monday 11th January	Peter Rippon	76
Wednesday 13th January	John Muscroft	82
Monday 25th January	Harry Bluff	100



**Mel Jones** Professor, passionate Yorkshireman, prolific author, inspirational speaker, seasoned broadcaster, respected local historian. Passed away January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, aged 82. Mel was Husband to Joan, and father to Dee. Although he had not been that well for a few years, he had continued working to the last and died in his chair at home. Mel has written several books about Ecclesfield, the Gatty family and the church and has given I think 3 lectures in the church so a good friend of ours. **AR**

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

## Humour

### Hymns for seasoned citizens

1. The Old Rugged Face
2. Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
3. It is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
4. Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
5. Amazing Grace, Considering My Age
6. Just a Slower Walk With Thee
7. Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
8. Go Tell It On The Mountain, But Speak Up
9. Give Me That Old Timers' Religion
10. Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I Parked

### Chain vicars - (From a Salisbury Theological College leaflet)

If you are unhappy with our vicar, simply have our churchwarden send a copy of this letter to six other churches who are also tired of their vicar.

Then bundle up our vicar and send him to the church on the top of the list in the letter. Within a week you will receive 16,435 vicars and one of them should be all right!

Have faith in this chain letter for vicars. Do not break the chain. One church did – and got their old vicar back!

## Ash Wednesday; mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday 17th February. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

*The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:*

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

## Saint of the month - 27th February - Gabriel Possenti

*Gabriel Possenti, the enjoyment of romance*

If you have been hurt in your search for romantic love, Gabriel Possenti (1838-62) may be a good saint for you. Because Possenti, born to the governor of Assisi, began by having it all. He grew up doing the mid-19th century equivalent of eBay, nightclubs, cinema and online dating, only in those days it was done by having a tailor who made you an exquisite wardrobe, and then going often to the dances and the theatre with as many young ladies as he could possibly find. Gabriel loved romance; he loved women: his friends called him Il Damerino (the ladies' man).



But the beautiful young ladies were not there for him when Gabriel fell gravely ill. Lying alone in bed Gabriel turned to the only One who could still be found. He prayed that if God would heal him, he would devote his life to him. Sure enough, Gabriel got well. But - he forgot God, and returned to his insatiable search for romantic love.

Gabriel fell ill again, and again the doctors despaired of his life. Again, he prayed, again he was healed, again he returned to his women.

But then one night, when he had joined a sacred procession of the miraculous ikon of Spoleto, something suddenly happened to Gabriel Possenti. He was suddenly overcome by a sense of the presence of God, and the love of God. It was a love he had never dreamed of, and far better than anything he had found with his many women. That night Gabriel decided to forsake the search for the perfect romance, and return to the Lover of his soul.

He joined the Passionist monastery at Morrovalle in 1856, and although his new life was very austere, Possenti was now full of joy that depended on no one but God, and so could never be taken away from him. Sadly, he died young of tuberculosis – at only 24, but his sunny personality and love for God were so outstanding that he became patron of youth. Immense numbers of pilgrims have visited his shrine down the years.

*Editor: see also Passionists - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passionists>*

## Quotations for February

A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of Him. - [John R W Stott](#)

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. - [Charles Colson](#)

Repentance unravels sin and makes sin not to be. - [Thomas Watson](#) - *The Doctrine of Repentance*

The best prayers have often more groans than words. - [John Bunyan](#)

Endurance is the ability to stand up under adversity; perseverance is the ability to progress in spite of it. - [Jerry Bridges](#)

It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us. - [Richard Baxter](#)

Christ's deeds and examples are commandments of what we should do. - *John Wycliffe*

Jesus Christ: no other man has ever humbled himself so greatly; and no man has ever been more exalted as a result. – *Anon*

Those who go against the grain of God's laws shouldn't complain when they get splinters. – *Anon*.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because He said so. The other evidence about Him has convinced them that He was neither a lunatic nor a quack. – *CS Lewis*

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# The Gardening Year – February 2021

**Harvesting** – If you have followed the advice given so far you should be faced with the delicious prospect of harvesting the fruits of your labours. I will show you how to tell when your crop is ready and how to store it either short-term or for longer times of the year. I will also help you deal with gluts, either by successive sowing or by preserving your produce by freezing, etc.,

**Pests and Problems** – any garden even on a small scale has its particular problems. These can range from pests such as slugs, snails, blight, mildew and weeds. This chapter deals with most of the problems you are likely to encounter in a container garden and gives possible preventions (quality compost, companion planting) and possible cures (cleaning pots, removing debris), these good gardening habits should stop most trouble in its tracks. **Vegetables and Salads** – This where we get into specifics, I will give you the low-down on the veg and salad that is best suited to a container garden and the particular varieties you should look out for. As well as giving ideas and inspiration the chapter gives you top tips on how to grow specific crops, the conditions they require and how to care for them. Even if you are a complete novice, there will be something here that you can grow.

**Fruit, Herbs and Edible Flowers** – If you are limited for space it is easy to disregard fruit as a potential crop, but this chapter will show you that it is quite possible to have a successful mini-orchard so long as you choose the right varieties. And herbs and edible flowers are useful as well as beautiful. They are easy to grow abundant in the right conditions, will give flavour and colour to your food and also attract valuable pollinators to the garden.

**Frugal Gardening** – If you are interested in container gardening but not so thrilled at the parting of your cash, this is the chapter for you. These days we are all encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle which is a maxim that can be applied to gardening. You will save money and help the environment by growing your own anyway, but if you can grow your own by using (free) swapped seed, homemade compost and wooden boxes from your local greengrocer so much the better. This chapter will give you tips and ideas on how you can get the most for your garden out of spending the least.

**Colin Williams**

## Eat the Seasons – February

**Vegetables** - Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Truffles (Black), Turnips

**Fruit** - Bananas (Windward), Blood Oranges, Clementines, Kiwi Fruit, Lemons, Oranges, Passion Fruit, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Rhubarb

**Meat** - Guinea Fowl, Hare, Partridge, Turkey, Venison

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

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

# Describe what love is

*Editor: Here is a beautiful paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13 – the love chapter.*

J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

## It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.

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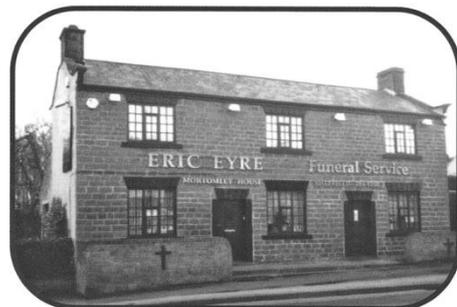
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## It is time to eat Leeks

Leeks are related to garlic and onions but have a much subtler, sweeter and more sophisticated flavour. They can be used to enrich soups or stews and they partner brilliantly with potato and with cheese to form tasty side-dishes and suppers that comfort and satisfy throughout the autumn and winter.



Leeks have been cultivated at least since the time of the Ancient Egyptians and are depicted in surviving tomb paintings from that period. The Romans considered the leek a superior vegetable and Emperor Nero got through so many he gained the nickname Porrophagus (leek eater); he is reported to have thought that eating leeks would improve his singing voice. Today the leek is grown widely across northern Europe and Asia - from Ireland to northern China - and delicious regional dishes such as cock-a-leekie and vichyssoise have spread across the globe.

**Allium porrum** - the version of the leek cultivated in Europe - is a member of the onion family. It thrives in cooler climates and is tolerant of frost, hence its great popularity as a winter vegetable.

### Nutrition

Leeks are an excellent source of vitamin C as well as iron and fibre. They provide many of the health-giving benefits associated with garlic and onions, such as promoting the functioning of the blood and the heart.

### Buying and Storing

When buying go for small or medium size leeks; large leeks (more than about an inch in diameter) are likely to be tough and woody. Leaf tops should be fresh and green, the root end should be unblemished and yield very slightly to pressure. Buy more than needed (around double by weight) to allow for losses due to trimming. Stored loosely wrapped in plastic (to keep them from drying out and to contain their smell) they will keep in the fridge for a week.

### Preparing and Cooking

Remove any tired or damaged outer leaves. Trim the rootlets at the base and cut off around a half to two thirds of the dark green tops. Partially cut the leeks in half lengthwise, starting at the middle and running the knife up to the green tops. Make a second lengthwise cut perpendicular to the first, allowing you to fan out the leaves. Give them a good rinse to remove the dirt that can get trapped inside as the leek grows. If you're not cooking the leeks whole then give them another wash after chopping them. Undercooked leeks are tough and chewy and overcooked leeks can take on an undesirable squidgy texture. Cook until just tender, testing by piercing the base with a knife. Braising in a moderate oven will take anything from 10 to 30 minutes depending on size. They can also be boiled or steamed.

*Legend has it that the Welsh adopted the vegetable as a national emblem in the seventh century when a Welsh army triumphed against the Saxons after wearing leeks in their hats to distinguish them from their enemy.*

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## Chapeltown & District Probud 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 before June 2021, possibly even later depending on how well the vaccination program goes. 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 January meeting had a presentation by Peter Slater called “Do I know who I am”. 28 members heard and saw a fascinating presentation about a Peter's search for his 'birth mother' and his extended family. Little knowing at the start of his search that he was by birth Irish and having to do most of his research over in Ireland.

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

Wednesday 10th February – John Hope “Come Fly with me”

Wednesday 11th March – AGM plus an In-House Quiz

Guests and potential new members are very welcome and until normal meetings resume, you can join for the special price of £10 with no further membership charges until normal meetings resume. If you are interested, please contact the secretary, Trevor Winslow on 07966 317258 or [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com)  
Or see the website at [www.chapeltown-probud.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probud.org.uk)

ACR

# Crossword Puzzle

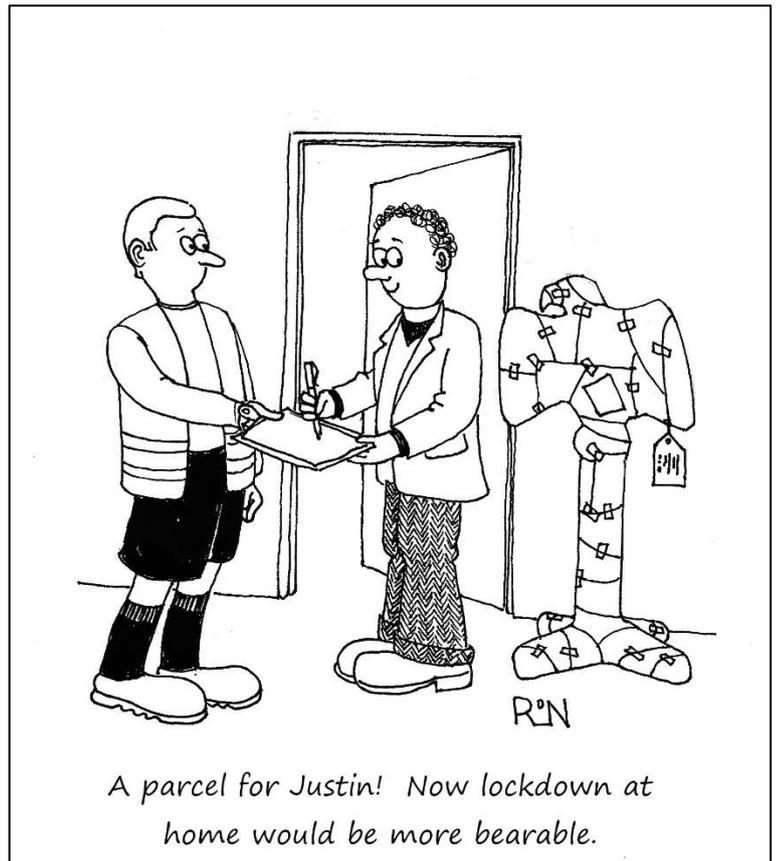
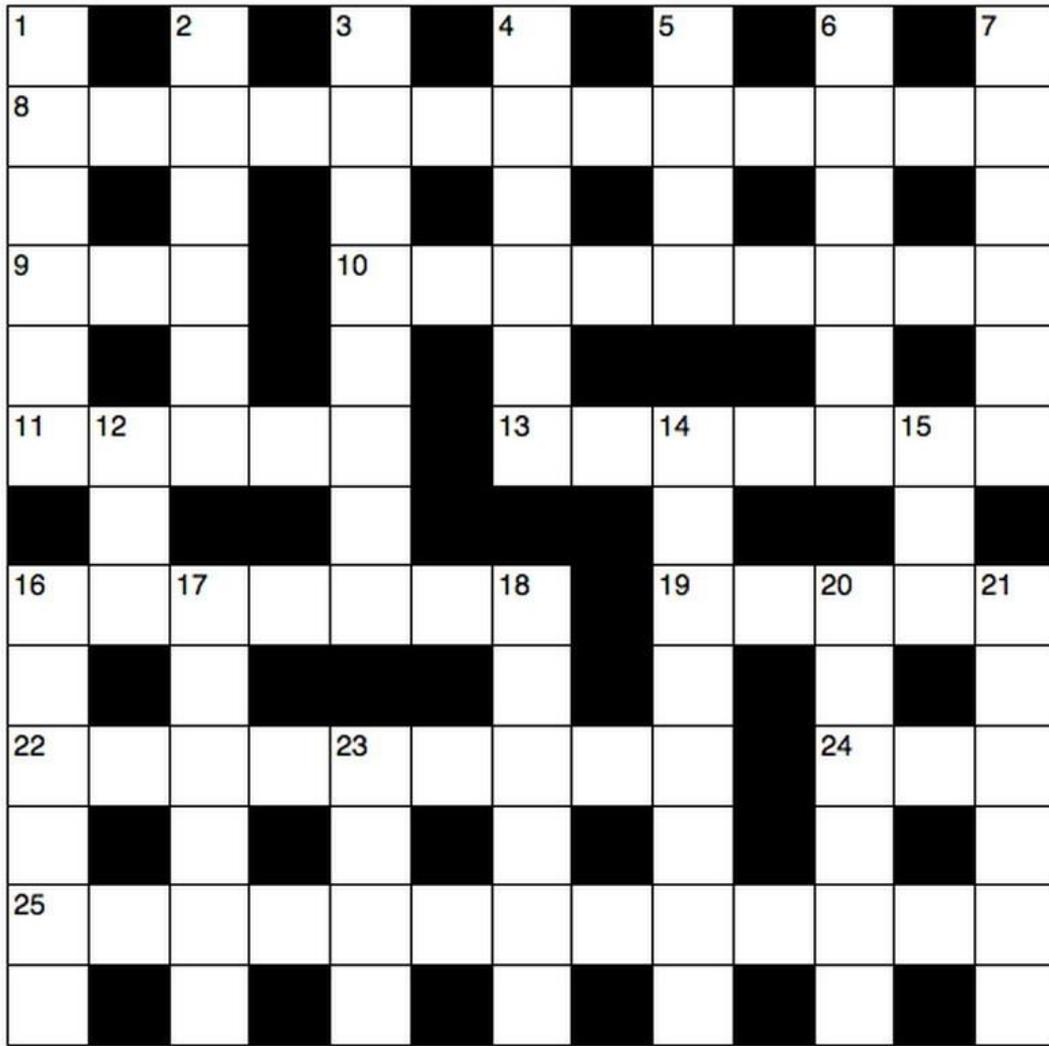
## Clues Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

## Clues Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Solution is on Page 21



# Prayers and Poems Page

## In this Lenten Time renew us

*This may be sung to the tune 'Rhuddlan'  
(Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendour)*

Jesus, in the wilds You tarried  
Forty days and forty nights  
By the Tempter often harried  
You the victor in each fight!  
In this Lenten time renew us  
Make us perfect in Your sight!

Bread alone cannot sustain us  
But each word from God above  
Worldly goods can nothing gain us  
If we lack our Father's love  
In this Lenten time renew us  
Come upon us like a dove!

God our judge should not be tempted  
He alone is fully just  
His laws can't be circumvented  
Satan's world will turn to dust!  
In this Lenten time renew us  
Teach us where to place our trust!

All Earth's kingdoms are but trifles  
If our Lord we can't adore  
Worldly wealth our worship stifles  
And, in truth, it makes us poor  
In this Lenten time renew us  
Guide us to Your Heav'nly shore!

God Almighty, everlasting  
Perfect all that you create  
Be with us in feast or fasting  
Cleanse our hearts from greed and hate  
In this Lenten time renew us  
That our joy may ne'er abate!

---

## A February Rose

My love, she likes a red, red rose  
Of deep magenta hue,  
A gift for Valentine that shows  
That someone's love is true.

But think on this, my bonnie lass,  
As you admire the bloom –  
That flower's been forced on under glass  
You ought to wait till June!

*Both by Nigel Beeton*

## A Prayer for Light

Fountain of light, source of light,  
Hear our prayer.  
Drive away from us the shadow of sin.  
Seek us, kindly light.

You, who created us in holiness,  
Who condemned our sin,  
Who redeemed us from our sin,  
Sustain us by your power.

Pour your gentle light into our dull minds,  
Filling our heads with holy thoughts.  
Pour your glorious light into our cold breasts,  
Kindling holy love within our hearts.

From horror, lust and fear,  
Guard us while we sleep.  
And if we cannot sleep,  
Let our eyes behold your heavenly host.

*By Alcuin of York, c. 735 – 804, later abbot of Tours.*

## Editor: And for Valentine's day...

### Love

He held her close in his arms' embrace,  
Their eyes and their lips did meet,  
He looked down into her lovely face,  
And her heart did faster beat...

They went to the kirk and it came the day,  
And the book the priest did take;  
He in his kilt was so bright and gay  
As his promise he did make.

She stood at his side so white and fair,  
Her white fingers fair to give,  
The priest handfasted them then and there,  
And he blessed them long to live.

O God give the joy and God the love  
To those who are lovers true,  
Shed down benediction from above  
As in one are joined the two.

*From Prayers of the Western Highlanders*

# Truth at risk of being auctioned to the highest bidder – Archbishop

*Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the growing problem of fake news.*

Truth is becoming a commodity, up for auction to the highest bidder, says Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in a recent article published in Radio Times.

Lamenting the decline of truth in public life, the Archbishop explains “The echo chambers of social media and the fake news that often goes with it have led us to mistrust and cynicism.

“In other parts of the world, even news channels seem to be mouthpieces of certain political parties or vested interests.”

Commenting on the US Presidential election, Archbishop Cottrell says “Look at how divided and mistrustful of each other the people of that nation have become. Most alarming of all, there seems to be no common understanding of what is true or who can be trusted. Truth itself seems to have become a commodity, bought by the highest bidder.”

The Archbishop’s words echo those of former President Barack Obama, who told the BBC that the US was more sharply divided now than when Donald Trump won election four years ago.

Using the term ‘truth decay’ to describe a rise in conspiracy theories and disinformation in the US, Barack Obama said, “I think at some point it's going to require a combination of regulation and standards within industries to get us back to the point where we at least recognise a common set of facts before we start arguing about what we should do about those facts.”

The Archbishop of York, who took up the post last July, is warning that the divisions in the US could come to the UK. He believes that the BBC and other UK ‘public service broadcasting’ channels like Channel 4 have a vital role in holding the country together. He says “I know that there are many across the country who feel that during this terrible pandemic year, others have been favoured at their expense. The vision of the united but diverse nation that we see on TV programmes such as ‘Gogglebox’ is not always what we see around us.”

The Archbishop is worried that the rise and spending power of US broadcasting giants Netflix and Amazon places “our British way of doing broadcasting under threat. A voracious, unchecked market may just sweep it away. Even some of our own politicians don’t always see this.” He adds: “Along with the NHS, and even the Church of England, the BBC and other public service broadcasters are a precious part of our cultural ecology. They help us to see ourselves clearly. They can be trusted.”

Meanwhile, a project running in the CofE’s St Albans diocese has brought together journalists, scientists, representatives of Big Tech and authors with people from a range of faiths to consider how the rising tide of disinformation and fake news can be stemmed.

Grove Books has published ‘Responding to Post Truth’, showing how churches and Christians could fight back against fake news and disinformation. You can order a copy at: <https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/e-197-responding-to-post-truth>

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Shane Porteous  
[shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk](mailto:shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk)

### Ecclesfield Scouts

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### Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

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