

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine June 2021

[stmarysecclesfield.org.uk](http://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk)

~~Price 60p~~

## First Words

June is the month that we have been waiting for, when we hope that all restrictions will be lifted and life can begin to move back to something like normal.

We are already back to our usual pattern of services with **Parish Eucharist on Sundays** at **10am** followed at **6.30pm** by **Evening Worship**, and midweek Communion on **Thursdays at 9.30am**.

On **Monday 7th June at 7.30pm** it is the first meeting of the newly-elected **PCC**. This meeting will be held in Church in person. Any items for this meeting to Tim please by Wed 2nd June.

**Tuesday 8th June 10am Funeral** in Church.

**Saturday 12th June 12 noon wedding** in Church.

**Monday 14th June 7pm Fabric Committee** meets in Church, followed at **8pm** by a **wedding rehearsal**. Any items for the Fabric Committee meeting to Tim please by Wed 9th June.

**Archdeacons' Visitation Wednesday 23rd June** at Rotherham Minster at **7.30pm**.

On **Saturday 26th June** at **1pm** there will be a **Wedding** in Church.

Finally on **Monday 28th June 7.30pm** we are holding a **Wedding Preparation** session in Church.

Look out for two more meetings in June, dates and time to be arranged, one to plan to re-open the Coffee Shop and the other for Prayer Breakfasts.

God bless,

Tim



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

**Front Cover – Peony Pink**

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

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# Prayer for the Month

## *The Collect for Purity.*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity is one of the great Anglican prayers. It was part of the Communion service in Cranmer's Book Of Common Prayer and was carried into the Alternative Service Book of 1980, and is still with us in the Common Worship Eucharist.

To my mind it is a great prayer to use as we enter a time of worship. It acknowledges the God that we want to worship and glorify; the God we seek to meet in worship as the one who truly knows us; knows us better than we know ourselves. Our hearts and desires and secrets, even our self deceptions, are open to God.

What motivates us as human beings made in God's image, are our desires - the things that we love with all our heart and mind and soul and strength. But as we know from looking at history and looking at our own hearts, our desires are often twisted and corrupted. We seek after things that do not and cannot ultimately satisfy us in the depths of our souls. For we are made to love God in all things and above all things.

When we try to satisfy our souls with anything less than God we are left feeling empty, and our hearts are restless. So in this great prayer we ask God to 'cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you.' We ask God to put our hearts right, to cleanse and heal us so that we may be whole.

We are made in God's image which is another way of saying that we are made to love: to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. This is what we were made for, and in love we find ourselves and our purpose. When we love like this our lives, not just our words glorify and magnify our great and loving Creator.

As the great African Bishop Saint Augustine wrote: "You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." The Collect for purity is a prayer for the healing of our restless hearts.

God bless you,  
Tim

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*Editor:* Other quotes by Augustine of Hippo

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

"If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself."

"Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it."

"Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

"There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future."

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

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# God and The Arts

*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.*

## **‘I do not know the man’, the fearful Peter said**

At the end of this month, on 28th June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest’s courtyard declares with an oath, ‘I do not know the man.’

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.



That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month’s painting, ‘Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.’ Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

This month’s picture is the first painting to depict Jesus’ trial and Peter’s denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio’s work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio’s painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.

# St James the Least of All

## On getting to church at a social distance

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

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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## Thought for the Month

On Sunday 6th June we enter into what the lectionary rather unimaginatively calls 'Ordinary Time.' We have traced the story of Jesus through the hopes and promises of Advent, the coming of our saviour at Christmas, His manifestation at Epiphany, and followed Jesus on the way to the Cross and Resurrection through Lent, Holy week and Easter. We have waited and prayed with the apostles for the out pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and then, after Trinity Sunday, we enter 'Ordinary Time!'

It seems to me though in 2021 things returning to the ordinary is something that most of us long and pray for. To be able to meet family and friends, to go on holiday, to go out to the cinema or the theatre, to be able to sing again in Church on Sundays. We have so missed all of these 'ordinary' things that we know that when they are returned to us we will never take them for granted again!

At our recent Annual General Meeting I said in my address that returning to ordinary life will not be easy. I believe that our work as a Church for the next year or so will be all about rebuilding.

I used the image of 'Up, In and Out' or 'God, ourselves and our neighbours.'

Firstly, we will need to rebuild our worship. At St Mary's we try to combine Charismatic worship using more modern worship songs and prayer ministry with a sacramental focus. The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and we rejoice in more traditional hymns led by the choir. To sustain this into the future we are seeking to recruit a musical director who will work with our musicians to develop that aspect of worship.

We will continue to have one morning service per month where we aim to be less formal in our worship and hope to attract more visitors to our beautiful Church.

Secondly, we need to focus on our fellowship and support for one another. We will need to strengthen our pastoral care team, recruiting new lay pastors to it. Focusing on our younger people we will need to re-start the Sunday Club. Prayer ministry is an important way of helping one another, again we will be looking for new members of the Prayer Ministry team for Sunday mornings. We hope to re-start the monthly Prayer Breakfasts in the summer. In all of this we will need a full complement of leaders - we currently have two vacancies for Church Warden - please pray that we will be able to fill these vacancies in the next few months.

Look out for new opportunities to meet together for prayer, study and worship which will be starting in the coming year.

As the Church of Christ in Ecclesfield we are called not only to love God and to love each other; we are also called to love our neighbours. One very practical way that we can do this is through the Coffee Shop on Tuesdays and Fridays. I have already had people from the local community asking if the Coffee Shop will re-open after lockdown. I believe that it will be very important as we come out of the pandemic. I hope that we can build on the past and open up to our neighbours again.

Once we are out of Covid restrictions there will be the process of rebuilding our links with and relationships to the different groups in our community. St Mary's is a parish Church - it is here for all who live locally.

The work of re-building will begin after the 21st June, but the planning, thinking and most importantly praying that is the foundation of our work as a Church has already begun.

We do not know what St Mary's will look like after 21st June - who will return, which new people will join our fellowship, and who will have gotten out of the habit of regular worship. We will all be 18 months older than when the first lockdown began, and we will all be much more tired. So please pray. Pray that the right people will come forward to further the work and mission of St Mary's, pray that God the Holy Spirit will guide us and help us to fulfil Christ's calling in our generation.

Amen.

## Let's give thanks to those brave volunteers

Let's give thanks to those brave volunteers - don't despair

That day will come when once again we will have fun!

We'll come out of stagnation when we've all had our second vaccination

There'll be no more need to 'Zoom' there will be real people inside the room.

We'll go shopping with our trolley and pick and choose - oh how jolly!

No more getting up early for that DPD drop — Once we can go inside the shop!

We'll get to see a real GP at last and hopefully 'phone consultations will be in the past.

They'll be no need to mask up and hide our smile, we'll walk and talk with those not seen all this while.

We'll go on that trip that we had planned and swim in the sea and sit on the sand,

So let us give thanks to those brave volunteers, who took part in drug trials despite all the fears.

And to all those behind the Covid jab, both inside and outside the Development Lab!

Poem by Myra Wasserman

## From the Registers

### Funerals

Monday 17th May      Alwyne Hill      81

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

### Marriages

Saturday 8th May      Robert Scholey & Gabriella Wright.

Saturday 29th May      Matthew Kerridge & Rebecca Wright.

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

## Mothers' Union

Local Subs: Last year 2020 we were unable to hold many meetings and I therefore didn't collect any local subs in the summer as in previous years. This year if the government's road map out of lockdown continues on time, it is hoped that we may be able to meet up in person again in July. Stephanie Hartshorne is working hard to find a safe and secure way in which we can do this. Hopefully, we will be able to resume our meetings in the Gatty Hall as previously. We will have rent to pay for the Gatty Hall and we also have some secretarial and administration expenses to pay. As our coffers are now empty, I am therefore collecting local subs again this year. They are £10.00 and as with the MU subs earlier in the year I would prefer a cheque made payable to Ecclesfield St Mary's Mothers' Union. If anyone has any difficulties, please speak to Stephanie or myself.

Thank you and best wishes to all.

Jennifer Armeson

## Miscellaneous musings on

A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers. – *Robert Quillen*

The contented man is never poor, the discontented never rich. - *George Eliot*

Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures; costs nothing and conveys much. - *Erastus Wiman*

Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain – and usually does. - *Dale Carnegie*

The world is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man. - *Clemens*

*Alexandrinus*

Nature is the art of God. - *Thomas Browne*

Know thyself? If I knew myself, I would run away. - *Johann Wolfgang*

The reason some people know the solution is because they created the problem. - *Kelly Fordyce*

The Himalayas are the raised letters upon which we blind children put our fingers to spell out the name of God. - *J H Barrows*

# 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.

## Wonders of the Living World

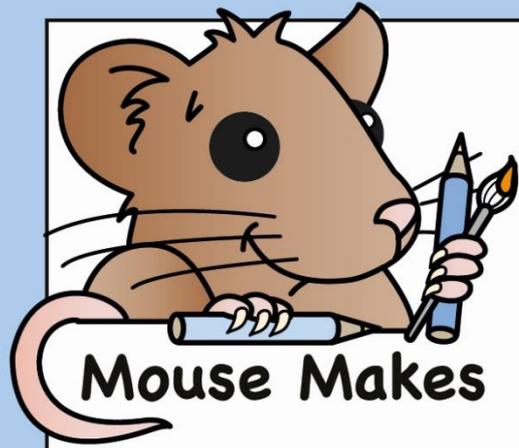
What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at [wondersofthelivingworld.org](http://wondersofthelivingworld.org)



# Mouse Makes

## JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?  
*John 4:46-54*

Who did Jesus heal from fever?  
*Mark 1:29-31*

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?  
*Mark 2:1-12*

- Jesus **healed** and made the...
- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| SICK      | ABLE     |
| DEAD      | WALK     |
| BLIND     | FORGIVEN |
| DEAF      | ALIVE    |
| CRIPPLED  | SPEAK    |
| SINNER    | MOVE     |
| MUTE      | SEE      |
| PARALYSED | WELL     |
| DISABLED  | HEAR     |



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?  
*Mark 5:1-20*

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?  
*John 5:1-15*

What did Jesus say made the woman well?  
*Matthew 9: 20-22*



How many men were healed from leprosy?  
*Luke 17:11-19*



What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?  
*Mark 10:46-52*

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?  
*John 11:1-45*

"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."  
*John 21:25*

# First, you simply have to be willing to listen

Editor: This is adapted from an article by Matt Jolley of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

*... the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ...he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-4)*

*Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:27)*

“Bad listeners do not make good disciples.” So said the well-known Christian writer John Stott, whose centenary we celebrate this year. And Stott’s ‘listening ear’ still remains at the heart of what disciples are called upon to do, today.

We listen to God because God speaks, and He speaks to us primarily through Scripture. Through the Spirit’s animation, these ancient scrolls remain living and active, addressing our contemporary world. Listening to this living Word is to receive life itself; to ignore it leads to death.

Such high stakes explain why our Bibles are packed with urgent reminders and stark warnings to listen to what God is saying. If we turn away from His Word, our hearts, speech, and actions follow.

But if we listen, we discover nothing less than Christ’s riches imbuing our everyday lives. His words will inform our minds, reform our hearts, and transform our actions. That’s why for Hebrew writers, hearing God was inseparable from obeying what He said – to hear and NOT obey is as ludicrous as building a house on a beach in hurricane season.

So, what does it look like for us to be obedient hearers of the Word?

First, we listen to God for our frontlines, prayerfully carrying our workplaces, our families, and our streets with us to Scripture, seeking wisdom for how to live gospel-soaked lives in ordinary places. As we read the text, and let it read us, the way we go about our day – from replying to an email to greeting a shop assistant – should look different as a result.

Then, we listen to God on our frontlines, sensitive to where the Good Shepherd is at work in the everyday. Where might His voice lead us if we expected to hear Him not just in our morning quiet time, but on the bus, in the pub garden, at the supermarket? What might He say to us, and through us, for the places we go and the people we meet, if we’d only make time to pause, and hear? What starts as a gentle whisper to us could outwork shalom through us to demonstrate the kingdom to those around us.

Because, as Stott reminds us, often being the hands and feet of Jesus first requires us to simply use our ears.

# Editor's Lockdown Humour

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

A quote: "None of us are getting out of here alive, so please stop treating yourself like an after thought. Eat the delicious food. Walk in the sunshine. Jump in the ocean. Say the truth that you're carrying in your heart like a hidden treasure. Be silly. Be kind. Be weird. There's no time for anything else." - [Anthony Hopkins](#)

Question: My child will not eat [fish](#). What can I replace it with? Answer: A cat. [Cats](#) love fish.

Some call it [multi-tasking](#), I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place...

I may look fine, but deep down I don't remember any of my [passwords](#)

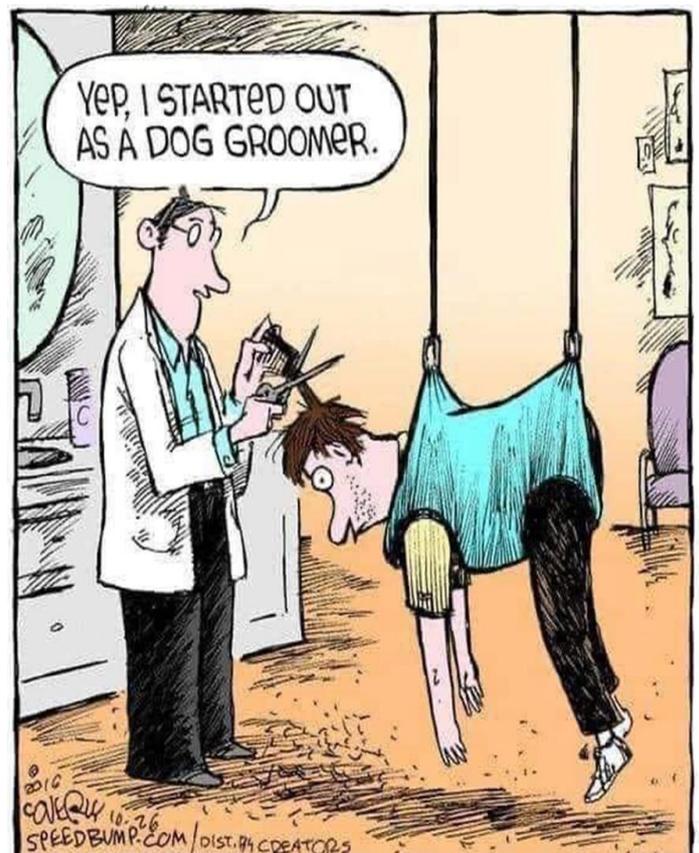
I've been hiding from exercise. I'm in the [fitness](#) protection program.

Life is like that: When I was [young](#), I was poor. But after years of hard, honest and painstaking work, I'm no longer young.

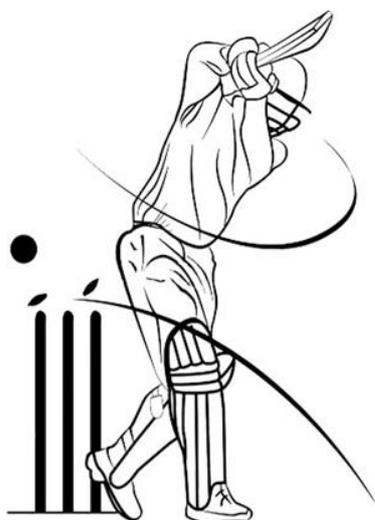
Receptionist at [Paranoia](#) Clinic – Have a seat, fill this out, and everyone will be out to get you shortly.

Falcons can live to be 12-15 years old. All falcons today were born in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, they are all [Millennial Falcons](#).

I've always wondered, do [songbirds](#) get mad at [hummingbirds](#) for not knowing the words...



# Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The season started on 17th April with wins for all three senior teams. The 1st XI beat Doncaster first team at home, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI beat Darfield first team and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI also beat Doncaster fourth team. However, 2021 has been a tough start for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI as the following weekend the 1st XI came up against a strong team away at Tickhill and failed to beat the challenge of 260 runs coming short with 223 all out. The team fared no better on 1<sup>st</sup> May at home against Barnsley when they set a target of 154 which was beaten with 5 wickets left. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have won two games beating Upper Haugh 1<sup>st</sup> team at home in their second game but were defeated away at Hallam on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI have won all three games following the win against Doncaster with wins against Silkstone 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and

Fishgate 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. As I write, all the fixtures on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May have been cancelled due to the weather, the 21<sup>st</sup> May because there has been so much moisture that the grounds were considered unsafe for play. With some clubs managing one or two games it has been a challenging start to the season – roll on some better weather. Full COVID-19 safety procedures are in place for players, officials and visitors. Spectators are welcome and drinks and snacks are available but please follow the procedures which are clearly posted.

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592

## Fixtures at Cinder Hill Lane

Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Treeton 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Wakefield 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> June	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Aston Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Appleby Frodingham 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Hallam 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Darfield 1 <sup>st</sup> XI

*Andrew Robinson*

## Golf....

A young man with a few hours to spare one afternoon figures that if he hurries and plays very fast, he can get in nine holes before he has to head home. As he is about to tee off, an old gentleman shuffles onto the tee and asks if he can join him. Although worried this will slow him up, the younger man says, "Of course." To his surprise, the old man plays quickly. He doesn't hit the ball very far, but it goes straight. Furthermore, the old man moves along without wasting any time.

When they reach the 9th fairway, the young man is facing a tough shot. A large pine tree sits in front of his ball, directly between it and the green. After several minutes of pondering how to hit the shot, the old man says, "You know, when I was your age, I'd hit the ball right over that tree." With the challenge before him, the young man swings hard, hits the ball, watches it fly into the branches, rattle around, and land with a thud a foot from where it had started.

"Of course," says the old man, "when I was your age, that tree was only three feet tall."

# Saint of the month - Ephrem the Syriac - 9th June

## A prolific hymn writer

Here is a saint for you, if you have ever been touched by the words of a song.

Ephrem the Syriac was born 306AD in Nisibis, Turkey. Baptised in 324, he joined the cathedral school in Nisibis, where it was soon obvious that he had an outstanding gift for writing both music and lyrics.

Ephrem would have agreed with St Paul about the value of using music to express our faith in God. In an age of widespread illiteracy, he saw that hymns could be powerful carriers of orthodox Christianity, even when sung by uneducated people.

And so Ephrem wrote – and wrote. His poetry was so powerful, and his melodies so evocative, that soon his hymns were spreading far and wide across the Roman Empire. And wherever they went, his hymns took the Christian gospel along with them.

Some of Ephrem's hymns were written to refute heretical ideas, while others praised the beauty of the life of Christ. To Ephrem, everything around us could become a reminder of the presence of God, and thus an aid to worship.

Ephrem became the most prolific and gifted hymn-writer in all of eastern Christianity. His hundreds of hymns influenced the later development of hymn-writing in both Syriac and Greek Christianity.

Ephrem was also a well-respected Christian theologian and writer, always keen to defend orthodoxy from the widespread heresies of the time. Ephrem stressed that Christ's perfect unity of humanity and divinity represented peace, perfection and salvation.

After Nisibis fell to the Turks in 363, Ephrem fled to Edessa, where he continued to work. But plague struck the city in 373, and while nursing others with the plague Ephrem finally died of it himself on 9th June. But his music lives on - more than 500 of his hymns still survive today.

## 20th June - Summer Solstice, longest day of the year

### **A Canticle for Brother Sun**

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

*St Francis of Assisi*

# Making changes

David Pickup, a solicitor,

*They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) in spite of all the good things he had done for them. Judges 8:35*

There are some things we change often, and others rarely. All businesses want customers and clients who return again and again, without making a fuss and who do not 'shop around'. Do you 'shop around' or are you steadfastly loyal, whether you are valued or not? Take a minute to think about how loyal you are to your supermarket, bank, doctor, insurer or energy supplier. Some of these we change often without a thought, and some not so. Many of us are skilled at getting the best deal and haggling. There is nothing wrong with that, and we should certainly be good stewards of what we have. This applies to both our home and church. We should shop around to get the best offer for our families or the congregation. When was the last time your church got several quotes for electricity or insurance?

If you think about the list above, there are some things we would rarely change. We tend to keep the same bank, and the same usually applies to doctors and other professionals. Some of these are simply not easy to change! Banks are supposed to make it easy to change accounts, but it rarely is. We would not give a second thought to doing the week's shop somewhere different, but business likes customers who are loyal, so they introduce reward schemes to encourage us to always buy things from them. All businesses depend on reputation and loyalty is to be valued. If we get a good experience, we should cherish it. If not, then tell them.

What should we look for when shopping around? How about asking yourself the following questions: 'Is it really a good deal?' 'Are there hidden extra charges?' 'How long are you tied into the deal for?' 'How difficult will it be to change supplier?'

If you want to renew a contract or if you are a new customer, it is usually easy. But try to cancel and they make it difficult; you often have to telephone to explain why. If you say you do not want to renew because you have a better quotation elsewhere, then you may suddenly get a better deal.

We do not usually have loyalty cards or reward points in church, do we! We could probably learn something about welcoming new customers and keeping existing ones loyal.

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# The Gardening Year – May 2021

Dietary needs, do you or your family have any special dietary needs? Perhaps you all try to get healthier, in which case growing your own fruits and vegetables is a great way to start. Maybe you are on a diet, in which case eating more fresh fruit and vegetables instead of convenience foods is a way to improve your chances of losing weight. Perhaps a change of circumstances has affected your finances, in which case growing your own food is one way to stretch your budget. From pregnancy to weaning, each person has their own individual requirements. Expectant mothers need a wide range of vitamins and minerals to stay healthy throughout pregnancy - what could be better than growing your own food and eating it fresh from the plant in addition, container gardening provides you with gentle exercise and you don't need to do any heavy lifting or digging, which can be a problem in traditional plots. You can later wean your baby on home grown fruit and vegetables purees. Toddlers and young children - Toddlers and young children can eat like a horse one day and a sparrow the next, all this is perfectly normal, but this can make planning a meal a nightmare. It can also lead to considerable food waste. By growing your own food little fingers can help themselves to cherry tomatoes, salad leaves or carrot sticks as and when they like. It's also easy to whip up a vegetable soup or a smoothie if the ingredients are on hand.

Teenagers can just be as fussy as toddlers. Encourage them to help in the garden even if they don't take an active interest. It is easier to incorporate good food into a teenager's diet if it's right outside the door. Why not keep chopped vegetables ready prepared in the fridge with a selection of dips, or batch cook and freeze, healthy meals, for the family to warm them through as a convenient meal.

In June you can plant outside: Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers, Dwarf Beans and Runner Beans. Did you know - The most widely used vegetable used all around the world is the onion.

**Colin Williams**

## Eat the Seasons – June

**Vegetables** - Artichoke, Asparagus, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Carrots, Chillies, Courgettes, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Kohlrabi, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Mangetout, New Potatoes, Onions, Pak Choi, Peas, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Samphire, Spinach, Spring Onions, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Nettles

**Fruit** - Apricots, Bilberries, Blueberries, Cherries, Gooseberries, Greengages, Kiwi Fruit, Peaches, Strawberries

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

**Meat** – Cod, Coley, Crab, Haddock, Halibut, Herring, Langoustine, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Scallops (Queen), Sea Bream, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Squid, Whelks, Whitebait

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

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## Gardening really is good for you

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all.

Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, “The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.

“In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running.

“Gardening is like effortless exercise: it doesn’t feel as strenuous as going to the gym, but we can expend similar amounts of energy.”

## Beware Japanese knotweed

This month (June) could see a sudden bumper appearance of the notorious garden pest, Japanese knotweed.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) experts have warned that the April frosts either delayed or killed other plants who would have helped keep it in check. Unfortunately, the pest is very hardy, and will not have been killed off.

The plant grows up to 2.1 metres (7ft) tall and can destroy the foundations of houses and run riot in gardens. It can even devalue property, and lead to the refusal of mortgages on the land.

## Home alone, wanting a gnome

Do you yearn for a garden gnome? You are not the only one.

Since last year’s lockdown, garden centres have been reporting a ‘massive upswing’ in ornament sales, due to people being forced to spend more time in their gardens. Gnomes top the list of most-wanted ornaments, with a near 100 per cent increase in sales over the past two years.

There was even a gnome crisis a while back, when the Suez Canal got jammed, and thousands of gnomes on their way to UK gardens could not get through.

---

### Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

A	M	B	U	S	H		S	C	H	O	O	L
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H		T				S		T				E
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F				S		H				A		A
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# ERIC EYRE

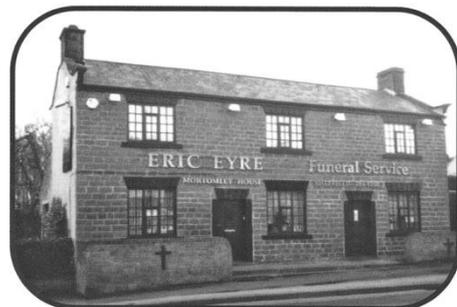
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## It is time to eat Beetroot

Many people are averse to beetroot having only experienced crinkle-cut slices steeped in overpowering vinegar. This is a shame because fresh beetroot has much to commend it in terms of flavour (sweet, slightly earthy), texture (smooth and velvety) and colour (dark red/purple, or an appealingly lurid pink when combined with cream or yoghurt). These attributes make it a key ingredient in many fabulous salads.



Beetroot evolved from wild seaboot which is a native of coastlines from India to Britain. Two thousand years ago, prior to being modified by cultivation techniques, beetroot had a carrot-shaped root and only the leaves were eaten (the small root was used for medicinal purposes by ancient Greeks and Romans). The familiar rounded root variety was developed around the sixteenth century and gained widespread popularity in Europe a couple of hundred years later. Today beetroot is common throughout much of Europe, and is used extensively in Scandinavian, Eastern European and Russian cuisine.

The beetroot plant, *Beta vulgaris*, has a deep tap root and can grow in a variety of soil conditions. Other genus members include chard, sugar beet, spinach and samphire. The red variety is dominant but golden and white beetroot is grown on a smaller scale. Beetroot 'Cylindra' is a deep-red heirloom beetroot that produces a long, cylindrical root that is tender and juicy. The shape of this variety makes it ideal for slicing.

Beetroot should be firm with a smooth, undamaged surface. Smaller roots are more tender - avoid any larger than about 6cm in diameter as they may have tough, woody cores. If you want to use the leaves (as the Greeks do) they should be crisp, fresh looking and not too long or thick, if you don't, it doesn't matter.

Twist off or cut off the leaves and store in an unsealed plastic bag in the fridge. The leaves should be used within a day or two, but the root will keep for a couple of weeks. Tender baby roots can be grated raw in salads. Mature beetroot can be boiled (better for smaller, younger beetroot) or wrapped in foil and baked (better for larger, older roots).

To preserve the beetroot's colour and nutrients, rinse and brush clean but do not remove the skin or root until after cooking. Cook until a skewer easily penetrates to the core (anything from 30 minutes to 2 hours boiling or 1½ to 2½ hours baking at 180°C). Place into cold water and rub off the skin, you may want to wear rubber gloves when cutting and handling beetroot as the pigmentation leaves a pretty stubborn stain.

The leaves can be cooked like spinach - steam uncovered in a pan with a small amount of boiling water (around 1cm depth). In Greece the cooked leaves are served along with the diced up root, dressed with virgin olive oil. You will often be given a dish of skordalia to accompany the beetroots.

[Skordalia](#) is basically a Greek garlic dip or spread made by combining crushed garlic with a thick base such as day-old bread or pureed potatoes, lots of olive oil blended with either a wine vinegar or fresh lemon juice.

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## Chapelton & District Probud Club

Subject to government rules and planning for the safety of our members, we are hoping that face to face meetings will resume in September 2021, maybe even with lunch to follow at Whitley Hall. We have what promises to be a really important talk arranged for the first real meeting since March 2020 when we welcome Andrew Foster and a colleague from South Yorkshire Police to talk about one of the current hot topics – fraud, con-tricks and cybercrime with some advice on how to avoid being sucked in. Until then, we will be continuing with virtual meetings using the Zoom system which have proved to be successful and easy to use, even for those who are not very technical. The May meeting welcomed the return of John Hope who gave an illustrated talk "Time Through The Ages". Members found this absolutely fascinating as John started with the definition of time and went through the whole history of devices designed to measure and display time. The meeting in June will have a presentation on "What Climate Change" which is expected to cover a range of stimulating facts and opinions about how the climate of the earth is changing and why.

### Forthcoming Meetings

9th June (Zoom) "What Climate Change?" – Keith Stevens

14th July (Zoom) "More History of Sheffield and Suburbs" – David Templeman

11th August (Zoom) "Municipal Housing in Sheffield from WW1" – Fred Dewhurst

8th September (Face to Face) "Fraud and Cybercrime" – Andrew Foster

At present, guests and new members are very welcome and you can become a member for the special price of £10 and with a reduced annual fee of just £15. If you are interested, or would like to join one of our virtual meetings to see if it will suit you, please contact the Secretary, Trevor Winslow on 07966 317258 or [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com).

Website <https://chapelton-probus.org.uk/>

# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

## Clues Down

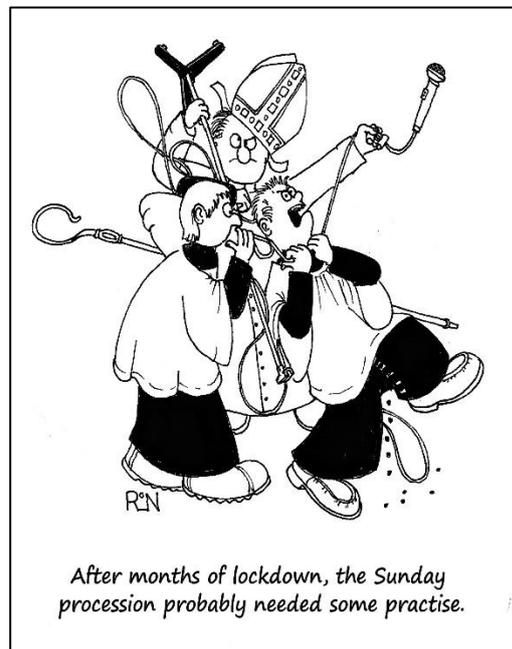
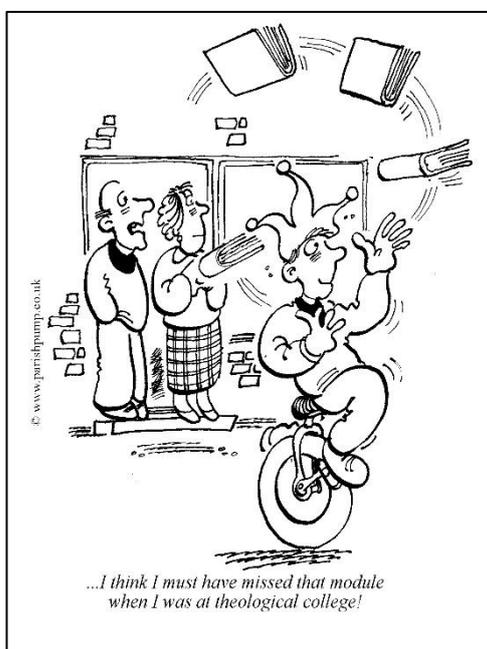
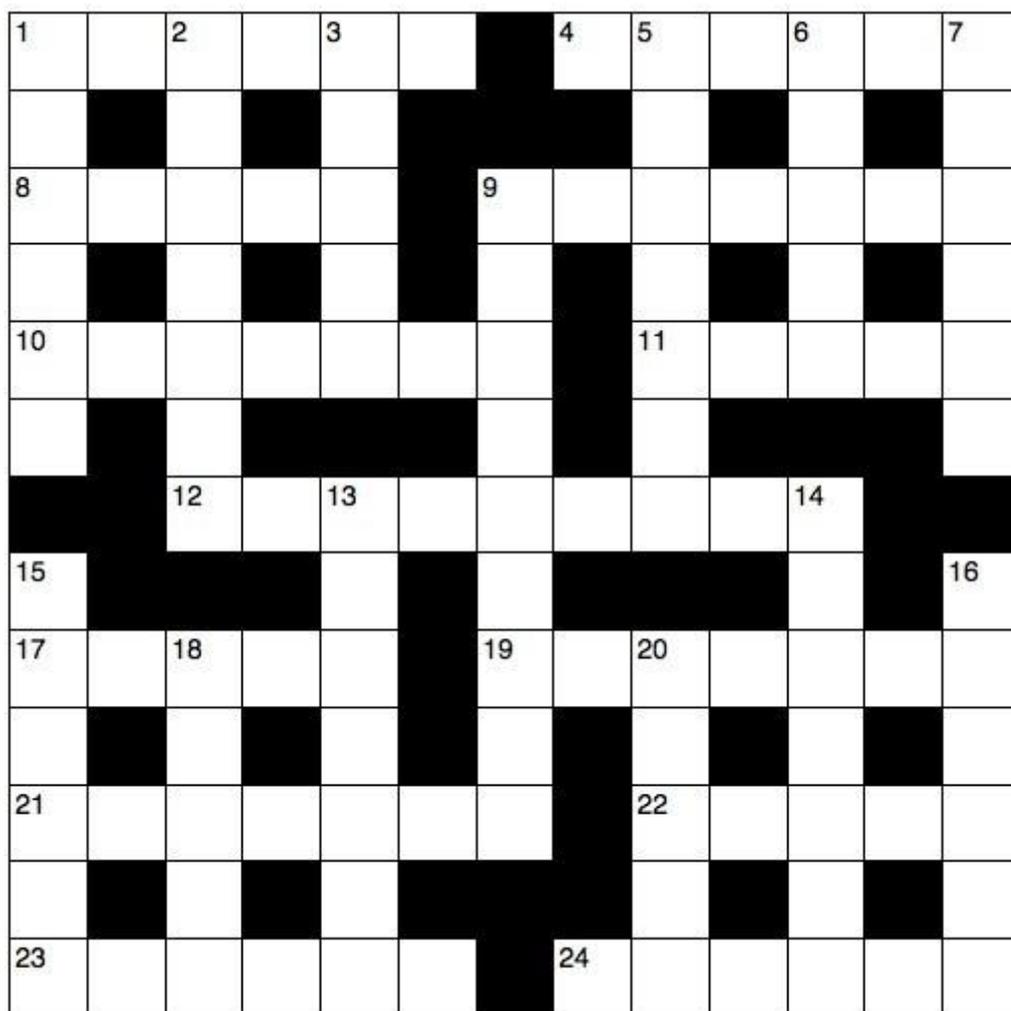
- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Solution is on Page 21



# Prayers and Poems Page

**Father,**

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you - and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be encouraged!

In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **The Ancient Church**

Sometimes I sit within my pew  
And gaze upon an ancient view  
Of stones, which, set by mason's line  
Have stood through centuries of time;  
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright  
Have told their wondrous tales of light  
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays  
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years  
God's servants preached to faithful ears;  
The lectern and its Bible read  
Aloud to both the quick and dead;  
The feet, which down that aisle have trod  
To worship everlasting God;  
The angels, as they downward gaze  
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries  
As they gathered to baptize,  
Songs of love and celebrations  
In marriages and confirmations,  
Songs of sadness and of loss  
Sung before the Saviour's cross.  
So many lives have come, then flown  
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how  
Such history should guide me now?  
Such faithful worship through the years  
May move me to shed humble tears.  
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear  
I know I'm just a tenant here  
And in one way they are my guide –  
They keep me free from pompous pride!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## **The Post Card**

A post card from you sent to me  
Causes me to smile with glee!  
I can't have the blues  
As I read the news  
Of your time with the sun and the sea!

I love how it lands on the mat  
So it's there when I hang up my hat;  
And no more time passes  
Ere I reach for my glasses  
And happily read all your chat!

A message by text's not the same.  
And Facebook is all just a game.  
I know some will say  
It's the new modern way,  
But the lack of a card? It's a shame!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## **Peace between neighbours**

Peace between neighbours near,  
Peace between kindred here,  
Peace between lovers dear,  
In the love of the King of us all.

Peace man with man abide,  
Peace man to wife allied,  
Mother and bairns to guide,  
And peace of the Christ above all.

Bless, O Christ, bless my face,  
My face bless every face,  
Christ, bless mine eye with grace,  
Mine eye give a blessing to all.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*

# Musical Director of Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Hazel Bradey on the 24th of March.

Hazel was born and lived in Stannington for most of her life, but her attachment to Ecclesfield began in the late 50's as a pupil at Ecclesfield Grammar School. It was here she was introduced to handbell ringing by teacher 'Ticker' Mitchell who taught ringing as an after-school activity as well as being conductor of the Ecclesfield village team. As a talented musician, Hazel was very soon promoted to the village team and it was not long after Mr Mitchell's death in 1977 that Hazel took over as conductor and musical director.



She was married to Paul for over 50 years, and they had two sons, Mark And Philip. Both Hazel and Paul loved music and for a time played in an accordion band together. They also loved walking.

Hazel was by nature an organiser, a 'doer'; not loud, not pushy but quietly assertive - and persistent. The traditional Christmas Carol Concert at the Gatty, started by Toc H, is still an annual event, largely because of her efforts. Bells were dragged and ringers cajoled to every appropriate village event, gala in the park, concerts at the library, services at church. She put in huge amounts of time collating historical records and organising an event at the Gatty to celebrate what we thought was Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers 100th birthday - 20 years late, as it turned out!

Recordings of the handbell team's music were only completed because she wouldn't take no for an answer; and as a perfectionist, she spent many hours with the recording technicians on the final editing. She also managed to get the original record of the village team from the early 70's digitally remastered and put on CD. But she was also kind and patient with new ringers, teaching music theory and ringing techniques, and welcoming them into the team.

In later years, when Paul became unwell Hazel would bring him to Friday coffee mornings at St Mary's to meet with the Alzheimer's support group. She loved chatting to new people, making friends everywhere.

In the wider world of handbell ringing the name Ecclesfield is well known and respected, largely due to Hazel's influence. She has been there at the heart of every gathering of handbell ringers, local, regional and national, for nearly 60 years, forever promoting the Ecclesfield brand. Her appointment to 'Life Member' of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (our national organisation) was definitely overdue and very well deserved.

Not bad for a girl from Stannington! Ecclesfield should be proud.

Hazel's input, direction and support will be greatly missed by The Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers and finding a way forward without her will be difficult, but to do otherwise is not an option. It would be letting her down.

**MB** - Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers

## Contact Numbers for Local Groups

### Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm  
Leader - Debbie  
Tel: 0786 047 1793

### Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall  
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm  
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson  
Tel: 0798 344 2742

### Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm  
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall  
Tel: 0114 246 8866

### Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall  
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm  
Leader - Mrs C Topham  
Tel: 0114 246 1289

### Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre  
Monday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Wednesday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Secretary –Carol Travis  
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

### Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between  
Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling  
greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday  
10 am to 12 noon  
Tel: Robert 0114 246 1095

### Friends of Ecclesfield Library

Run by the community for the community.  
Volunteer helpers always needed.  
Tel: 0114 246 3651  
email: [ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com)

### Ecclesfield Cubs

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

### Ecclesfield Beavers

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

### Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm  
Leader - Bryony Hemming  
[25theecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com](mailto:25theecclesfieldscouts@gmail.com)

### The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's  
Church Hall at 7:30 pm  
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 0782 411 2584  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk)

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

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

### Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month  
in Grenoside Community Centre  
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome  
Secretary Trevor Winslow 0796 631 7258  
We are now on Zoom see  
[www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk)

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





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

**Why your donation counts**



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