

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March 2021

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

*~~Price 60p~~*



# First Words

It is now a year since the first lockdown, and at last there is light at the end of the tunnel! However we are still in lockdown and most meetings, including services, are all still 'virtual'.

The services are **Sundays at 10am** and **Thursdays at 9.30am**.

They will be live-streamed on the Church Facebook page and available later on Facebook and on the Church website.

The **Lent Course** this year, ***Shining As Light for Christ***, is via Zoom. We will meet on **Wednesdays at 7.30pm** and will be finished by 9pm. The course lasts for 5 sessions and began on Wednesday 24th Feb.

Also for Lent we are reading *A Cross in the Heart of God* by Sam Wells. Those who wish are invited to the **Good Book Club** to discuss Wells' book on **Thursdays at 3pm** finishing by 4pm, starting on Thursday 4th March.

The Zoom codes for the Lent course and the Good Book Club can be found later in the Magazine.

## Diary for March

**Monday 1st March 7.30pm PCC Meeting** via Zoom

**Tuesday 2nd March 6pm Ecclesfield Feoffees Meeting** via Zoom

**Sunday 7th March 10am** The Third Sunday of Lent

**Sunday 14th March 10am** Mothering Sunday

**Saturday 20th March 9am** Diocesan Synod

**Sunday 21st March 10am** The Fifth Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins

**Monday 22nd March 7pm Ecclesfield Charities Meeting** via Zoom

**Sunday 28th March 10am** Palm Sunday Worship

Holy Week begins

Details of services in Holy Week are found later in the Magazine.

God bless you,

Tim



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

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

*Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.”*

I think that this is one of the most insightful and intelligent things that the disciples say throughout the Gospels. They observed Jesus at prayer and so they saw the relationship that He had with the Father. They saw just how prayer was at the very heart of His life and was the foundation of everything that Jesus did and said and was.

It also struck me that the request of the disciples to be taught how to pray is itself a prayer. And so in recent weeks one of my constant prayers has been this: “Lord teach me to pray.” I usually pray this before I settle down to a time of silent prayer.

When I pray this prayer it is an acknowledgement of just Who it is that I am praying to. God does not need me to tell Him about the woes and troubles of this world. God is God, and by definition God knows all things and every person. God understands all things better than I ever will.

So, at times when I pray this prayer I am asking God what is on His heart of perfect love. What does God want me to pray for?

At other times I approach God with a person or a particular situation already on my heart. But again, God is God, and God knows better than I do what I should be asking for when I pray.

I believe that God humbly chooses to work through us when we make ourselves available in prayer. But I also know that when I pray my mind is often clouded, or I do not know the full situation or I do not understand the person’s needs as the all-knowing (omniscient) Father does.

When I pray it is not to inform God, it is not to change God’s mind. It is to let God shape my heart and mind, and it is to offer myself to God, to allow Him to take my prayers and use them to accomplish His will for His people and His world. Amen.

[Luke 11:1-8](#)

## Thought for the Month

According to St Paul (1 Corinthians 13:13) hope, along with faith and love, is one of the enduring virtues. I think that after the past twelve months, when at times we thought that there would never be an end to lockdown and the very restricted life that it forced us to live, we now appreciate the value of hope. I am not sure that human beings can live without it.

We now have hope. A hope for the easing of restrictions; the hope that comes with the roll-out of vaccinations. We can now look forward and plan for the day when we can meet family, hug our children, sit with friends over a cup of coffee and even sing in Church!

As we look forward to the return to life returning to something like normal, we need to start thinking now how we will be ready for this as a Church, as Christ's body here in Ecclesfield.

The Church will be important as a community space for all who live in the parish. We will see couples marry in St Mary's again; we will have the privilege of baptising children, welcoming schools for harvest and Christmas services.

continues on page 11

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# God and The Arts

*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It hangs in the Tate Gallery. Our image is from Wikimedia Commons.*

## Behold the handmaid of the Lord

'*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of this month's painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We shall hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25th March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years certain traditions emerged: in many paintings Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.



Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called '*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' his 'white picture.' That is the colour that dominates: the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls, the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, the traditional colour for Mary, is relegated to the screen behind and the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good New of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry, or with wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

## Zoom Codes for The Lent Course - Wednesdays at 7.30pm

Meeting ID: 869 7053 5440

Passcode: 719664

One tap mobile

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## Zoom Codes for The Good book Club - Thursdays at 3pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 897 8821 8160

Passcode: 890910

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For each meeting you will need the Meeting ID: and Passcode:

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k9wRroGrO>

## Month of March Quotes

“March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice.” - [Hal Borland](#)

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” - *Charles Dickens, Great Expectations*

“Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares, and take The Winds of March with beauty.” - *William Shakespeare (The Winter's Tale)*

“March, when days are getting long, Let thy growing hours be strong to set right some wintry wrong.” - [Caroline May](#)

“March is the month God created to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like.” - [Garrison Keillor](#)

“The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.” - [Henry Van Dyke](#), Fisherman's Luck



# St James the Least of All

## On how to deflect those staff appraisals

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned on – although I have been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the organ fund and they will immediately excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

Your vicar is also bound to want to see the congregation increasing. This is not sustainable, and you should put a stop to such ambitions at once. It is easily done. All you have to do is to approach your friends at the local football club and bribe them with your homemade beer to come along to church several Sunday mornings in a row. If you give them enough beer BEFORE the service, they will be likely to make just enough muted disruption as to leave your vicar a bit rattled, and thinking that perhaps after all, 'less' is 'more' when it comes to the congregation.

But whatever you do, make sure that you never preach a better sermon than he does. You don't want anyone thanking you at the door for your 'so interesting sermon' in front of him, when they have been sleeping through his sermons for years. If you offend the vicar this way, he will take swift revenge, and ask you to organise the parish summer fete.

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

## What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time.

We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

**Getting outside** - Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying creation can also help us connect with God.

**Looking outside** - If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

**Lament and praise** - The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

**Journaling** - Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

**Acts of kindness** - Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

**Gratitude** - Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

**Laugh, sing, make music, dance** - All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.



## Thought for the Month - continued

Can I ask you to start praying about this now. To ask God to show us how we can better serve our community as we come out of lock-down. If we are going to be able to welcome our friends and neighbours into St Mary's - at special events and times or at the Coffee Shop, we need to be prepared.

Before we begin to make plans and set agendas we need to pray, to listen to the Holy Spirit. We need to remind ourselves that St Mary's is not our Church, it isn't the Bishop's or the diocese's Church. It's Christ's Church or it isn't a Church at all.

And Christ has called us to be His Church in these days. As always God calls some for the sake of all. At the heart of our calling as Christians is Jesus' Great Commandment, that we love the Lord our God with all of our heart and souls and mind and strength, and we love our neighbour as ourselves.

How can we do this as we begin to recover from the pandemic?

One thing is certain, whatever God calls us to do and to be, we cannot do it without the Holy Spirit and we cannot do it without the prayers and commitment of every member of St Mary's.

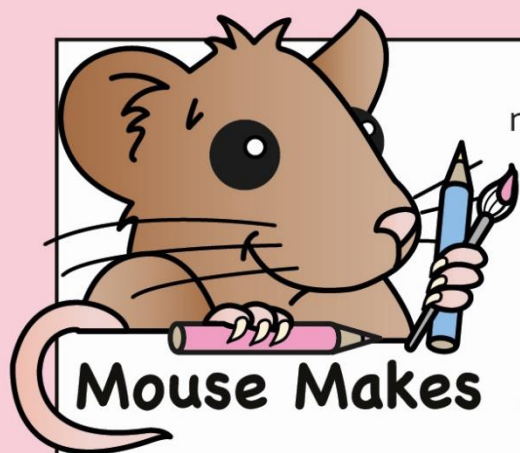
Our AGM is planned for Sunday 25th April, two months away now. Please begin to pray about this today. WE need to find the right people to be on the PCC, to fill the two Church Warden vacancies that will come up. We need people to staff the finance and buildings and outreach teams. The virus has exposed just how much we depend on the long-standing members of St Mary's. We now need some of the newer and younger members to get more involved and take on responsibility for the life and worship, the ministry and mission of St Mary's.

I invite every member of St Mary's family to ask God what you are being called to do as part of the Body of Christ here?

It is God's Church and God's mission, but as the Body of Christ ours are the hands and the hearts, the feet and the voices, that God will use.

The One who calls us is faithful!

God bless,  
Tim



## Mouse Makes

**Who is my mother?**

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

**CAIN and ABEL**  
*Genesis 4:1-2*

**JOSEPH**  
*Genesis 30:22-24*

**ISHMAEL**  
*Genesis 16:15*

**TIMOTHY**  
*2 Timothy 1:5*

**RUBEN**  
*Genesis 29:32*

**GAD**  
*Genesis 35:26*

**SAMUEL**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**OBED**  
*Matthew 1:5*

**ISAAC**  
*Genesis 21:3*

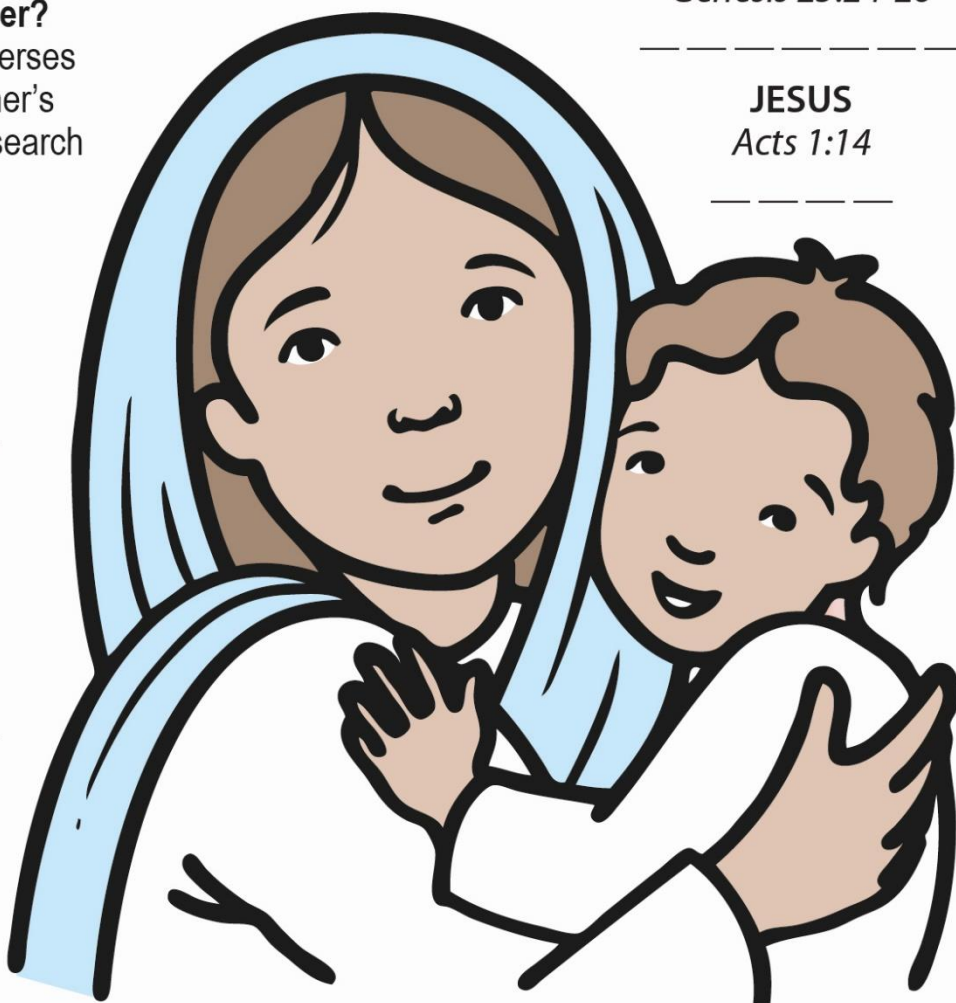
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

**SOLOMON**  
*1 Chronicles 3:5*

**JOHN**  
*Luke 1:57-60*

**ESAU and JACOB**  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

**JESUS**  
*Acts 1:14*



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

# From the Registers

## Funerals

Friday 12th February	Thelma Denial	78
Wednesday 17th February	Lesley Ann Wooten	96
Thursday 18th February	Carole Birt	77

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

## God and the vacuum cleaner bags - A Lockdown Story

Out for a walk one day I saw a church friend clearing the snow off his car on his driveway. What an unexpected delight. A face-to-face conversation! At a distance of course. Not having seen each other or spoken for almost 12 months we had lots to say. As always in these situations we shared family and friend's news and then moved on to the difficulties of the present life we are living.

He told me of his frustration at going to a national electrical supplier, as he always has, to pick up some vacuum cleaner bags. The salesman was unable to sell them to him because he could only do so if click and collect had been employed. My friend had the money in his hand, the salesman had the bags in his hand, but nothing could be done as the legalities of lockdown prevented it. I commiserated and thought how strange life is becoming for we 'oldies' who find it difficult to adapt to the modern way.

Reflecting on it as I walked on, I thought how ironic it was that my daughter had received the wrong vacuum cleaner bags when buying a new vacuum cleaner by phone recently, which had then been replaced free of charge by the right ones of course, but the firm did not want the earlier ones returning. She had tried without success to find a new home for them and had exhausted every avenue.

What happened next? You guessed it! She 'phoned these friends. They were the right bags for their machine, so they were duly collected and fitted and used. How very satisfying for all concerned! And no money needed to change hands.

The highlight of the story of course is the coincidences involved. Firstly that this was the only time I have gone that way for my walk so how strange that my friend should have been clearing the snow just as I passed; then that he related his story to me; also that I passed it on to my daughter never thinking for a moment that her spare bags would be the right size. In fact when my daughter suggested ringing them I am ashamed to say I was rather dismissive of the idea that hers would be the right ones for them. When my daughter got in touch with his wife to check it out they were both thrilled to bits. One because now she had found a home for them, the other because one of life's little lockdown problems had been solved so easily. On receiving the bags she declared "Isn't God good! He even sorts out our vacuum cleaner bags!"

'Coincidence' or 'God-incidence?' What do you think?



Of course there are much deeper themes here. This is a lightweight example of recognising God's leading. In this case a simple sharing of a frustration without which the connection could not have been made. But really, if God can sort out our little problems so easily then where is he when the awful, traumas of life – of which we have heard so much in the last year – present themselves so randomly with such heart-breaking consequences?

I do believe he is here. Here with us at the coal face. Sometimes recognised and known in the kindness of others. Maybe in the listening ear when nothing can be done to change the situation. Sometimes he may be experienced in the timing of things or choices made. Perhaps again sometimes seen in the 'coincidences' of life. I believe all love comes from God in some mysterious way. I trust that he will lead each and every one of us when we try to hear that still small voice or instinct or helpful advice that helps us decide on the way forward. Though seemingly hidden at times, God is with us. With grace and comfort and peace. Not just replacement vacuum cleaner bags!

*Jeni Fryer*

## Editor's Lockdown Humour

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

If you eat an entire [cake](#) without cutting it then technically you only ate one piece...

When this is all [over](#) I propose we go out and get totally [sober](#).

What has 4 letters, sometimes 9 letters, but never has 5 [letters](#).

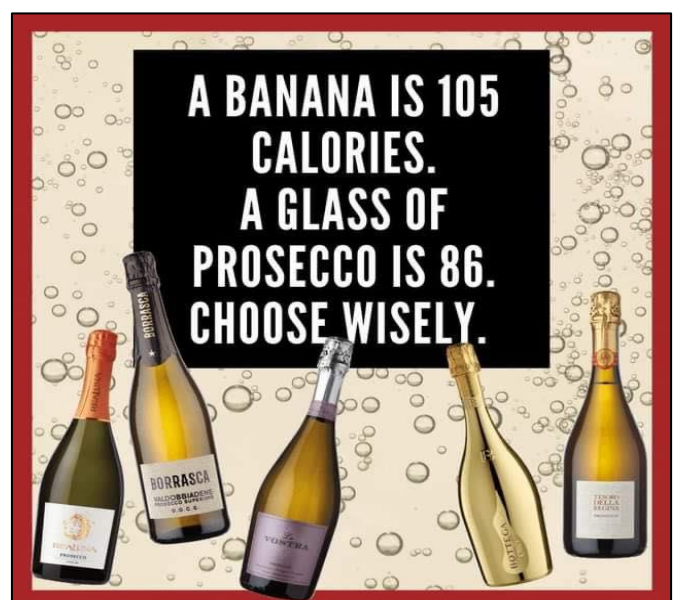
As a parent, there will be many times in your life that you will hug your child, knowing full well you needed that [hug](#) more than they did.

A hangover is the [wrath of grapes](#).

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a [workstation](#)...

[Common sense](#) is not a gift. It's a [punishment](#) because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

Honestly, its not the way I look that reveals my age; it's my use of complete [sentences](#) and [punctuation](#) when I text.



# Winnie-the-Pooh

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."



Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now."

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

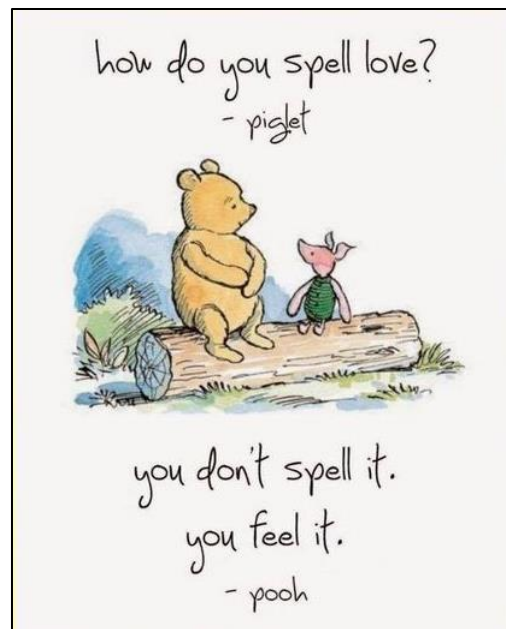
"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There.

No more; no less.

**(A.A. Milne, E.H. Shepard)**



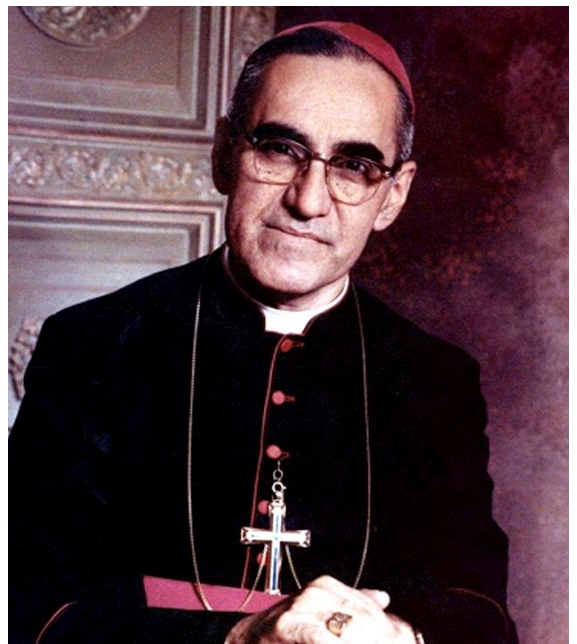
## Saint of the month - 24th March - Oscar Romero

### Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr 1980

Oscar Romero was a bit of a modern Thomas Becket – loyal to the authorities until he was given great responsibility for the Church. Then, like Becket, there was trouble.

In Romero's case, it all began when he was born Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador back in 1917. Devout from a young age, he was ordained in 1942, and became a parish priest in the diocese of San Miguel.

For 25 years Romero worked hard in his parish, where he was a traditional priest, very conservative, ascetic, and devoted to the Virgin Mary. In 1967 he was appointed Secretary to the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. He was elevated to be Bishop of San Salvador and then Bishop of Santiago de Maria. An admirer of the conservative Opus Dei movement, Romero firmly opposed any liberation theology.



Then in 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. The Salvadorian government saw him as a safe pair of hands for the job.

But they were in for a shock. For Romero's new responsibilities made him look afresh at the relationship between Church and State in El Salvador. He did not like what he saw. Romero saw that social unrest and poverty were the direct result of government repression, and even worse, that the Church played its part in the on-going violence of Salvadorian society. After the murder of several outspoken priests and then the expulsion of several allegedly Marxist Jesuits, Romero felt compelled to speak out.

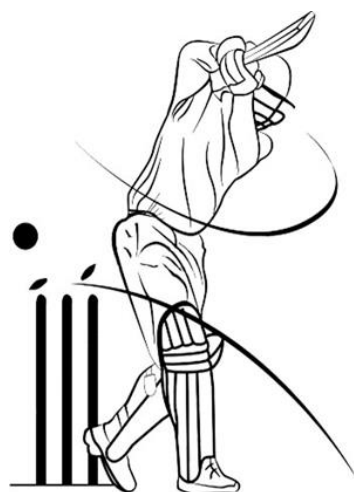
The right-wing Latin American governments were well used to priests who worked with the poor speaking out against them. But this was the first time that an Archbishop had raised his voice, and they were furious.

But Romero became a champion of liberation theology. He condemned government violence and championed the right of the poor to economic and social justice. He even wrote a pastoral letter from the Salvadorian bishops, supporting proportionate counter-violence towards the oppressive right-wing regime. When, nonetheless, he also still tried to act as a mediator between the rival groups, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For several years Romero received death threats from both left- and right-wing paramilitary groups. Finally, while celebrating Mass, he was shot through the heart by a government assassin. It was 24th March 1980, and 40 more people died in the gunfire and explosions at his funeral. The Church worldwide mourned for him.



# Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The government's recent announcement that outdoor sport will be allowed to commence at the end of March suggests that the club will be able to look forward to a more normal cricket season. At the time of writing, this is still subject to detailed clarification by the cricket authorities and we expect that there will still be rules for social distancing and precautions during the game, at least in the early season. Details and fixtures will be confirmed in the April magazine. In the meantime, significant work has been taking place at the

ground with the construction of a three track practice nets area, with significant help from the Lottery Fund and ECB in the form of grants. The work is not yet complete but should be available by the beginning of April and this will be a superb facility for improving the skills of all our players. It does mean that the capacity in the car park will be reduced so if you are able to walk to the club, that would be a good option.



*New Practice Nets Under Construction*

The club has its annual prizegiving and social evening planned for the end of February although it will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. As the 2019 annual meeting was cancelled, the awards will cover two years, not the least the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in 2020 when the team achieved the nearest available to Premier League Champions. With the Premier League divided into two sections, Whitley topped the Western section and played the winners of the Eastern section, Doncaster, in the final at Treeton on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Doncaster batted first and achieved 167 for 9 with all overs used. In a brilliant reply, Whitley achieved 168 for 6 with 7 full overs remaining. Captain James Moorhouse proudly lifted the Jack Bland Trophy and Neil Longhurst was awarded man of the match for his batting. The 2021 season is eagerly awaited!

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 0796 901 4592

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# The Gardening Year – March 2021

Although gardening can be very expensive, especially when setting up for the first time, there are many ways to make your container garden an economic activity. As more and more people try to budget their finances carefully, there's never been a better time to grow some of your own food.

In this chapter you'll discover ways, from seed to harvest to make gardening an economic activity that might pay for itself.

**Compost** - If you must buy compost from a garden centre to fill your containers, it can be expensive. The best way is to make your own by turning "rubbish" into a valuable source on site. It's easy to make a compost, in a suitable container layer 'green' items such as grass clippings, potato and vegetable peelings with brown items such as shredded cardboard and newspaper. Also' a bag of straw, horse manure put with it will help to rot down quicker. Some local authorities sell compost to their residents. You can often purchase it at your local household recycling centre.

**Containers** - Do your boots leak' or your wellingtons let in water? these can make quirky containers for food just imagine strawberries spilling out of a pair of wellies. Admittedly you won't get much food from one shoe, but they make it a good conversation piece and are a lovely idea for children. What about that rusty wheelbarrow that has a few holes in the bottom or the bucket that leaks. These make fantastic containers.

**Wheelbarrows** are a good height from the ground, making them attractive for people who find it hard to bend or kneel. Using old buckets is a good form of reuse, helping reduce the amount of waste you send to landfill. Buckets are ideal for planting a few carrots while wheelbarrows lend themselves to salad leaves.

**Car boot sales**, garage sales and yard sales are some of the best places for these things. Toilet roll and kitchen roll inners saved make good things for sowing seed and you'll end up with free biodegradable pots for your compost bin.

**Colin Williams**

## Eat the Seasons – March

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

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

**Meat** – The Season of Lent When Little If Any Meat Was Eaten

**Fish** - Cockles, Dab, Dover Sole, Gurnard, Hake, Langoustine, Lemon Sole, Lobster, Mussels, Oysters, Red Mullet, Salmon, Shrimp, Whitebait, Winkles

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

# Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

*Editor: The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham offers the following for Lent...*

Do you know the popular series of books entitled Where's Wally? These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, 'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night' (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step-by-step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!



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## 'Zoomed Out?'

*The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers the need to stay connected*

*'You're still on mute!'* If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: *'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.'* (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: *'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!'* (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that *'God is bigger than Zoom'* and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

---

### Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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

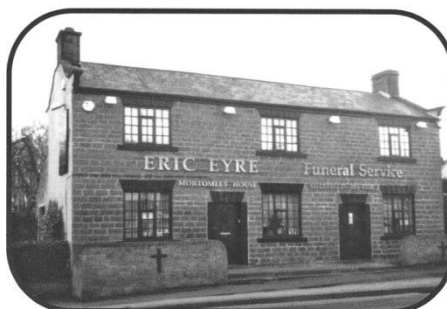
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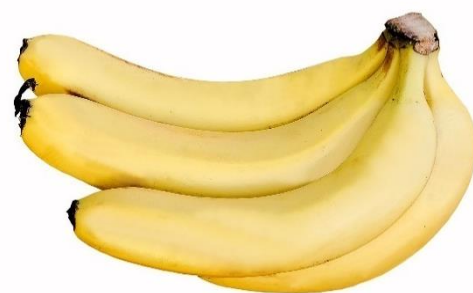
Eric Eyre National President  
1989 - 1990





# It is time to eat Bananas

Windward Island bananas are a classic example of paying a bit more to get a lot more. Try a taste-off between a Windward banana and one of the cheaper alternatives (usually from Central or South America). The Windward wins hands down. The unique growing conditions (moderate rainfall and thin volcanic soil on steep slopes) result in a banana with a sweetness, succulence and depth of flavour unsurpassed by other imported bananas.



By Augustus Binu, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41312905>

Good all year round, but we scoff more of them in the months when there isn't so much UK and European fruit available. Evidence suggests that bananas have been eaten in India for several thousand years. They were being grown in China in AD200 and by the 15th century were cultivated across Africa. Banana imports only began reaching a wider audience in the northern hemisphere in the last hundred years.

A [banana plant](#) looks like a tree but is, botanically speaking, a fast-growing perennial herb. Each year it grows a completely new trunk-like shoot that dies back to its roots again after the plant has fruited.

**Nutrition** - Bananas supply a significant amount of potassium and vitamin B6 and moderate levels of folic acid and vitamins A and C. Their sugars form a rich energy source that is released over a relatively long period of time, hence their use by many sportsmen and women as a natural performance-enhancing dietary supplement.

**Buying, Storing & Preparing** - The taste and texture of a banana develops as it ripens. Fruit that are yellow with just the hint of a freckling of brown will be at their most flavoursome; eat your banana earlier than this if you prefer a firmer texture (often better for cooking). Soft or strongly smelling fruit are overripe. Bananas that require further ripening should be kept at room temperature, but away from heat or direct sun. Ripe bananas can be refrigerated, which arrests the ripening process, for a few days - allow them to reach room temperature before eating. Banana slices can be prevented from discolouring quite so quickly by dipping them in an acidic citrus juice such as orange, lemon or lime.

## Baked Bananas with Rum and Lime - Serves 4

### Ingredients

6 firm bananas  
Zest of 1 lime and juice of 2  
4 tbsp soft dark-brown muscovado sugar  
50ml rum

### To serve

Juice of ½ lime  
2 tbsp rum  
Ice cream or whipped cream

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/210C fan/gas mark 7
2. Peel the bananas and halve lengthways. Sprinkle the lime zest, half the juice and half the sugar into a shallow baking-dish. Lay the bananas on top in a single layer. Pour on the rest of the lime juice and all of the rum, and add the remaining sugar.
3. Put in the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the bananas are soft.
4. Meanwhile, preheat the grill. Once soft, stick the dish under a hot grill until bubbling – about three minutes. Drizzle on more lime juice and rum and serve immediately with ice cream or double cream.

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## Chapeltown & District Proboscis 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 Wednesday 10th February meeting was a presentation by John Hope - “Come Fly with me” An interesting if indulgent look into his career in the Royal Air Force, and the many places he was stationed at during his years of service.

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

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

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April – David Templeman “Street Names of Central Sheffield”

Guests and potential new members are very welcome and until normal meetings resume, you can join for the special price of £10.

If you are interested in joining us, 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-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk)

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# Crossword Puzzle

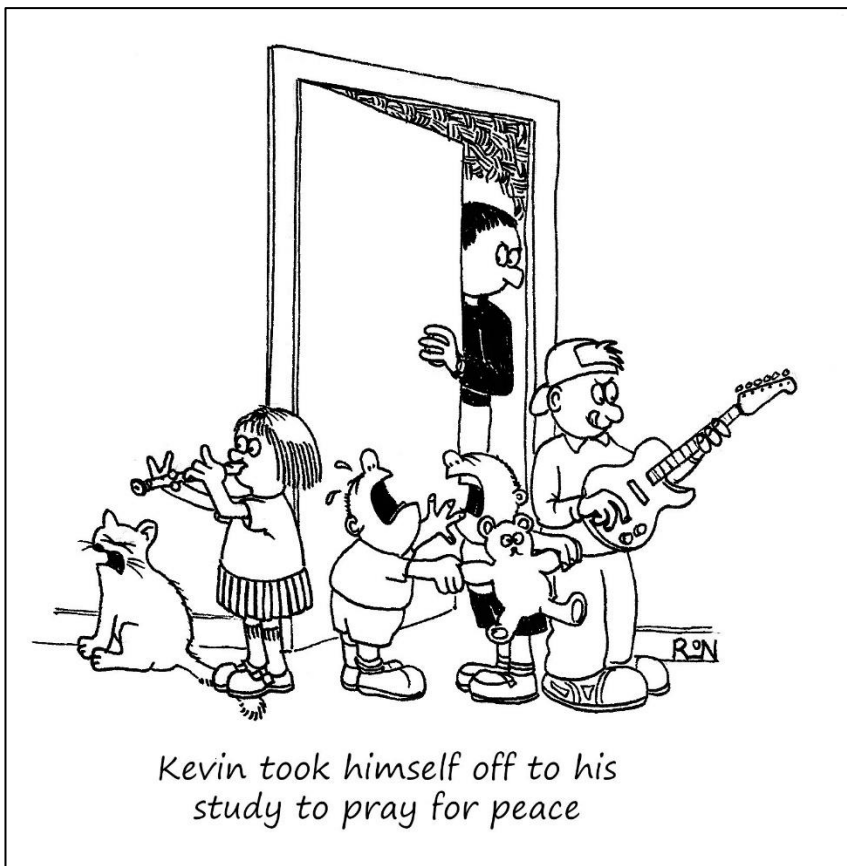
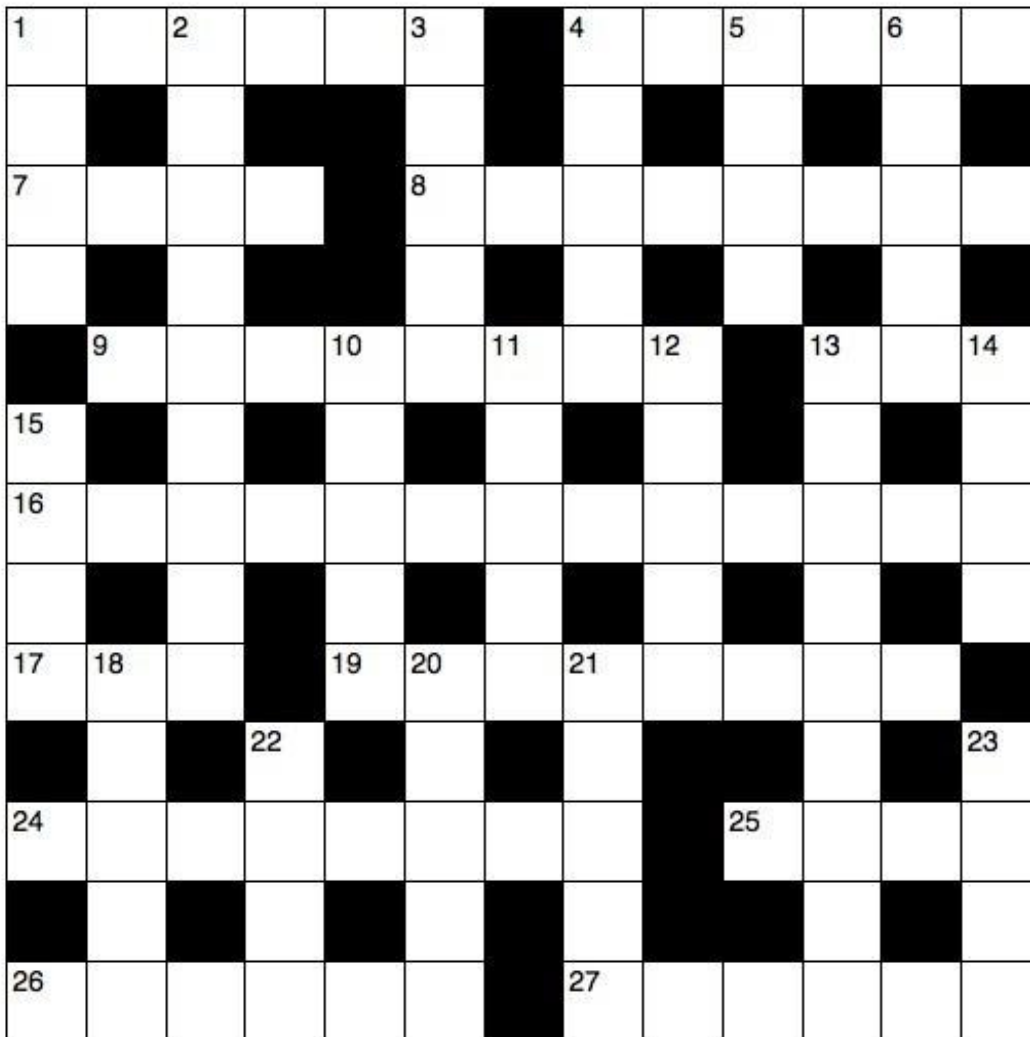
## Clues Across

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

## Clues Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)





# Prayers and Poems Page

*Editor: Nigel Beeton is a recently retired senior radiologist, and this poem comes out of time spent back at the hospital in January, helping colleagues.*

## Together

In the year nineteen seventy-one  
They heard the church bells ring  
That wedding day was so much fun!  
They promised they would cling  
    Together they would always stay  
    Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen eighty-one  
For ten years they'd been wed  
Two daughters and a strapping son  
And still they often said  
    Together they would always stay  
    Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen ninety-one  
Their children nearly grown!  
Yes, troubles go and troubles come  
But they had always shown  
    Together they would always stay  
    Till death will come to part their way.

In the year two thousand and one  
Their lifelong odyssey  
Had brought to them their first grandson  
But everyone could see  
    Together they would always stay  
    Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty-eleven  
Retirement came at last  
Grandchildren – now they counted seven  
The family grows fast!  
    Together they would always stay  
    Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty twenty-one  
Their Golden Wedding day.  
But celebrations? There were none  
A Care home said that they  
    Together couldn't always stay  
    For Covid came come to part their way.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## JESUS

If I could package faith into one parcel  
And collect all hope into a single can –  
If I could roll all love into one heart-ball  
And commoditise it in a living man  
I'd already have a fully detailed label  
Prepared before the world itself began -  
And it would have one name -  
And that name – JESUS -  
At the centre of God's universal plan  
To take the world along the course  
God's surge of love provoked  
Till wholeness flows through everything  
With God's Spirit of life unyoked.

*by Sam Doubtfire*

## Thoughts

'Tis God's will I would do,  
My own will I would rein;  
Would give to God his due,  
From my own due refrain;  
God's path I would pursue,  
My own path would disdain;

For Christ's death would I care,  
My own death duly weighed;  
Christ's pain my silent prayer,  
My God-love warmer made;  
'Tis Christ's cross I would bear,  
My own cross off me laid;

Repentance I would make,  
Repentance early choose;  
Rein for my tongue would take,  
Rein for my thoughts would use;

God's judgment would I mind,  
My own judgment close-scanned;  
Christ's freedom seizing bind,  
My own freedom in hand;  
Christ's love close-scanned would find,  
My own love understand.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*

# 2021 World Watch List of Persecution of Christians

A Christian persecution watchdog has warned that more Christians around the world are suffering because of their faith, and the kind of persecution they're experiencing has intensified.

Open Doors has found that more than 340 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith, amounting to one in eight worldwide.

Now the charity has released its 2021 World Watch List (WWL) which highlights the top 50 countries that are most hostile toward Christians.

Here are the top ten.

**1. North Korea** - Being discovered as a Christian is a death sentence in North Korea. If you aren't killed instantly, you will be taken to a labour camp as a political criminal.

**2. Afghanistan** - ISIS and the Taliban continue to have a strong, violent presence in Afghanistan, with the Taliban controlling large regions.

**3. Somalia** - Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity, and if any Somali is suspected of having converted to Christianity, they are in great danger. Members of their family, clan or community will harass, intimidate or even kill them. Women may be raped and forcibly married.

**4. Libya** - There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion and very limited possibility of public church life in Libya. Although there are around 34,500 Christians in the country, only a tiny number (approximately 150) are Libyan – the majority are expatriates and migrant workers.

**5. Pakistan** - Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups vehemently "defend" these laws, including attacking or killing those believed to have contravened them.

**6. Eritrea** - Government security forces monitor phone calls, scrutinise activity and conduct countless raids which target Christians, seize Christian materials and damage house churches. Christians can be arrested and imprisoned without trial.

**7. Yemen** - Christians in Yemen usually keep their faith secret, because if they are discovered then they could face the death penalty. Leaving Islam is forbidden, and all Yemenis are considered Muslims by the state.

**8. Iran** - The Iranian government sees the conversion of Muslims to Christianity as an attempt by Western countries to undermine the Islamic rule of Iran. Christians from a Muslim background are persecuted the most, primarily by the government, but also by their families and communities.

**9. Nigeria** - More Christians are murdered for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country. Violent attacks by Boko Haram, Hausa-Fulani Muslim militant herdsman, ISWAP (an affiliate of ISIS) and other Islamic extremist groups are common in the north and middle belt of the country, and they are becoming more common further south.

**10, India** - Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background.



## Contact Numbers for Local Groups ☎

### Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm  
Leader - Debbie  
Tel: 07860 471793

### Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall  
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm  
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson  
Tel: 0114 257 8609

### Ecclesfield Brownies

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

### Ecclesfield Guides

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

### Ecclesfield Priory Players

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

### Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between  
Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling  
greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday  
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Tel: Robert 0114 2461095

### Friends of Ecclesfield Library

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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  
Tel. 07983 719155

### The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's  
Church Hall at 7:30 pm  
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 07824 112584  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](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 07966 317258  
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



E-mail: [tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org)

Ann Hackett	246 7159
Jo Hawksworth	246 2852

## Vacancy

Pat Clarke	257 7191
Stephanie Dale	245 2392

Stephanie Dale 245 2392

Pat Wood	246 5086
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Tuesday 9:00 am to 1.00 pm

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Currently Suspended

Thursday 7:30 pm - Contact: Andrea Whittaker 246 0746

1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm

Contact: Stephanie Hartshorne

Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Anne Rostron 245 5492

Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Phil Hirst 286 2766

Contact us on: 0780 307 8223

**Baptisms:** Contact – Pat Clarke

**Weddings:** Contact: Revd Tim Gill

“ Or email: *tim.gill@sheffield.anglican.org*

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