

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine October 2021

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

October means dark nights and cold mornings. It is a time to enjoy the fruit that is in season, and above all October is Harvest.

The **Harvest Festival** will be held on **Sunday 10th October at 10am**, a time to remember, even in these difficult days, all that we have to give thanks to God for!

It is good to see that the Parent & Toddler group in the Gatty Hall has started up again. Please pray for the leaders and the parents/grandparents and children.

The **Harvest Supper** will be in Church this year on **Friday 15th October** - look out for more details.

We have **baptisms on Sunday 3rd October at 12 noon**. It is so good to be able to baptise children again.

On Monday **4th October at 7.30pm** the **PCC** will be meeting with Revd Ian Parkinson, our assistant Archdeacon. On the agenda will be our relationship with St Mark's Grenoside and especially my role there as 'oversight minister.'

Thursday 7th October at 10.30am, St Mary's Daytime Gathering, a monthly time of fellowship, prayer & study held during the day for those unable to make the evening gatherings.

On **Saturday 9th October at 12.30** there will be a **Chapelton Wedding** at St Mary's - please pray for the couple getting married.

On **Wednesday 13th October 7.30pm** in Church we will have the first '**Soul Sanctuary.**' A time to meet for prayer. Each session will include instruction on contemplative / meditative prayer and most of the session will be given over to praying. If this is something that is new to you why not come along?

On **Friday 15th October** it is **Ecclesfield Primary School's Harvest Service** - unfortunately not in Church this year but I will be taking part via Zoom!

After the morning Eucharist on **Sunday 17th October**, I will be heading to **St Mark's** for a **Baptism** service at 11.30am.

The **Ministry Team** are meeting on **Tuesday 19th October at 10am** in Church.

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Clicking on images and links in the online magazine may tell you more...
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Back Cover – View through Lych Gate - Donate

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Prayer for the Month

As I write for this month's magazine we have just passed the autumn equinox.

Now there will be more hours of darkness than light every day. The nights will grow longer until the shortest day on the 21st of December.

It was this which promoted my choice for 'Prayer of the Month' for October.

*Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

This prayer is traditionally prayed at Compline, Night Prayer, the last of the daily offices. I often pray Compline in my study just before going to bed - usually at around midnight. It is a good way of ending the day.

In this prayer we ask God to bring light to our darkness. Not simply the physical darkness, but the spiritual darkness. It is firstly a prayer for guidance. We ask God to help us to see the way ahead, to see the path that we are called to walk.

This prayer is secondly a prayer for self-knowledge. When I pray this prayer I also ask God for insight into my own heart. I ask Christ to illuminate the hidden corners of my heart, that I may see my sins and failings, my character flaws as Christ sees them; and Christ sees them truly, but also compassionately. We cannot hide our flaws and failures from Christ, but Christ looks on us with eyes of love and compassion.

Having asked God for enlightenment and insight, the prayer moves on. We ask God of His great mercy to protect us through the night. I suppose this is a grown-up version of "As I lay me down to sleep ..." When I pray this prayer I go to sleep having put myself and those I love into the hands of God.

Every part of this prayer, every request, as with all Christian prayer, is made, "for the love of Christ." We can approach the Father in prayer because of Christ, and we ask the Father to look on us for the sake of Christ who loves us, who died and rose again for us.

Every Christian prayer, every Christian act, is all held within the love of Christ.

God bless you,

Tim

First Words - Continued

On **Wednesday 20th October at 7.30pm** in Church we will have the second “**St Mary’s Gathering.**’ A time to meet together for prayer, fellowship, and study.

On **Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October** I am taking part in some national training via Zoom.

On **Monday 25th October** we will be welcoming parents and Godparents to Church for **Baptism Preparation at 7pm.**

And on **Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th & Friday 29th October from 10 to 11.30am** I will be having training in a new course for Churches called, “Being With.”

Finally on the afternoon of **Sunday 31st October at 4pm** we will be hosting the first of two ‘**Annual Memorial Services**’. On the 31st of October we will be inviting families who had funerals from 2019-2020. (The service for families whose funerals fell from 2020 - 2021 will be on Sunday 7th November at 4pm).

October is looking like a very full and varied month. Please pray for all of these events and for me as I minister here at St Mary’s.

God bless,
Tim

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God and The Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a wood engraving of The Feast of Tabernacles, one of several 'Illustrations of Jewish Customs' by Simeon Solomon.

You can see a copy of the illustration at <https://victorianweb.org/art/illustration/ssolomon/24.html>

'Spread over us the tabernacle of your peace, O God'

For nine days at the end of September Jewish families will have gathered to celebrate the festival of Tabernacles. It is always a happy season as adults and children alike join for their Harvest feast. Many churches will be having their own Harvest Thanksgivings at the beginning of this month. We know this was a custom revived by Parson Hawker in the Victorian period, but its roots lie in that Jewish feast which Jesus Himself knew and celebrated.



Each family erects a tabernacle or tent in the garden or back yard. They will have their meals and spend time there, relaxing with one another. The roof of each tabernacle might have branches of trees covering it, hung with fruits and fragrant flowers. The children decorate the tent with drawings and pictures.

Because it is only a temporary building for that time of the year, and because the roof is fragile, it is a reminder of the journeying of the Israelites in the wilderness when their safety rested on the goodness of God. It was God who watched over the people then. It is God who watches over them now and watches over the earth, so that it is fruitful, providing food for their health and happiness.

This feast is the subject of this month's picture by Simeon Solomon. He was a Jewish artist, born in London in 1840 into a family of artists. He made his own reputation through meeting the Pre-Raphaelites and the poet, Swinburne. Solomon was a colourful character of that period, whose life sadly ended in poverty and alcoholism. But this wood engraving was made early on in his life in 1866. It is part of a series illustrating Jewish customs, which Solomon provided for 'Leisure Hour.'

We see an elderly person on the left making his way into the tent, and at the other side a mother leading her children. The walls outside are adorned with palm branches and inside the tent a feast of fruits and food await them. The young boy seems hesitant, wondering what he will find and clinging to the hand of his mother. But all is well, for inside other members of the family are there to welcome them.

Solomon conveys the domesticity of this feast, and the young boy outside reminds us that Jesus Himself would have celebrated this feast with Mary and Joseph. They would also have gone up to Jerusalem to join the thousands of pilgrims there, as Jesus was to do later in His adult ministry. Each pilgrim would carry a branch of myrtle, palm and willow in one hand and a citrus fruit in the other, symbols of the fruits of the promised land. The air would be full of hosannas and praises to God.

Like the Jewish families at the Feast of Tabernacles, we shall gather for our Harvest Thanksgivings. Like them, we shall thank God for His faithful goodness in the past. Like them, we shall look ahead to the coming of God's kingdom, where God who feeds us now in food and drink will nourish us eternally. Like them, we shall proclaim, 'O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one who trusts in Him.'

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...



When the film makers come to church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmount was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Our Little Bears Club, for pre-school age children and babies, has restarted on Fridays from 10-11.30am

Knit & Natter group meet Mondays 2-4pm and Wednesdays 12-3pm

The Local History Group are meeting on the last Wednesday of the month (except August and November) from 2-4pm starting on Wednesday 27th October

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Thought for the Month

October means Harvest. I am very pleased to be able to say that St Mary's Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 10th October at 10am. Harvest is one of those special celebrations that is not just 'for the Church' - it is for the whole community.

I remember when I was a child living in a village in North Yorkshire, harvest involved the whole community. There were celebrations in the local schools, and those who were not 'regulars' at the Church came along to celebrate. They understood that the parish Church was their Church. The local farmers would bring produce as would people from the village - things that they had grown in their gardens and allotments. The fresh produce was taken out to the elderly in the village.

It was a community event and God was understood to be at the heart of the community. We gathered once a year to give thanks.

Despite the difficulties that we have all faced over the past 18 months or so, we do still have much to give thanks for. Not least for the work of the NHS, of those who developed the vaccine; of frontline workers in retail and logistics, in nursing homes and all those others that we clapped for in the early days of the pandemic.

We also give thanks for family and home, for food and security; for the everyday blessings without which life would be very hard indeed.

The food donated - not fresh, but tins and dried food - will be given to the work of foodbanks in our city. It looks as though they will be needed even more in the coming winter! The cash collection will be for Water Aid.

I hope that the Harvest Festival here in Ecclesfield can return to being something of and for the whole community, and not just for those of us who worship faithfully Sunday by Sunday. St Mary's is a Parish Church. We are here for anyone and everyone.

Harvest this year will still not be what we want it to be. I am very pleased that Ecclesfield Primary School have invited me to take part in their Harvest celebration - but via Zoom and not in person! It will not be back to normal, not just yet, but we still have much to celebrate, much to be thankful for.

So, I hope that you will join us on Sunday 10th October, and I hope that you will invite friends and neighbours to come to **their** Parish Church to give thanks to God, who has carried us through these difficult times and who is with us always.

God bless,

Tim

Bible Sunday – 24th October

This special Sunday in the church's calendar is an opportunity to stop and consider the enormous blessing that the Bible has brought to people down the centuries. Without it, we would know nothing about God our Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It is God-breathed – full of His love and guidance to us. World history would have been radically different without it.

Whether or not you are able to get to church on 24th October, Bible Society has some excellent resources on Bible Sunday at

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday/>

The old church website

In March this year we had to mothball the original website because the hosting service would no longer support the legacy software it used. So, we set up the new website which is now hosted in the European Union and not the US. We will be shutting down the 'old' site in November, so please visit and take or copy whatever you need before it closes. After November there will only be my backup copy as an archive. **PL**

Have You Noticed?

Everything is further away than it used to be: it's twice as far, and they've added a hill. It seems to me they are making steps steeper than in the old days.

And have you noticed the smaller print they are using in the newspapers?

There's no sense in asking anyone to read aloud; everyone speaks in such a low voice I can't hear them.

And the material used in clothes is getting skimpier, especially round the waist and hips! Even people are changing, they are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age —

On the other hand, people my own age are much older than I am.

I ran into an old friend the other day, and she had aged so much she didn't recognise me.

I was thinking about her whilst combing my hair this morning and I glanced at my reflection, and do you know what? They don't make mirrors like they used to!

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Sunday 19th September	Alexander Peter Penson
Sunday 19th September	Hector Robert Buttery
Sunday 19th September	Kylen Dean Grist

May they know the love of God in their life and may all things of the Spirit live and grow in them

Marriages

Saturday 4th September	Peter Higginson & Emma Fletcher
Saturday 25th September	Kieron Webb & Jade Holloway

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

Funerals

Friday 3rd September	John Fryer
Thursday 23rd September	Jonathan Robinson (Memorial Service)
Wednesday 29th September	David Rees
Thursday 30th September	Craig Prior (Memorial Service)

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

Paraprosdokians...

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraprosdokian> Winston Churchill loved them, as do many comedians they are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Could you invent one?

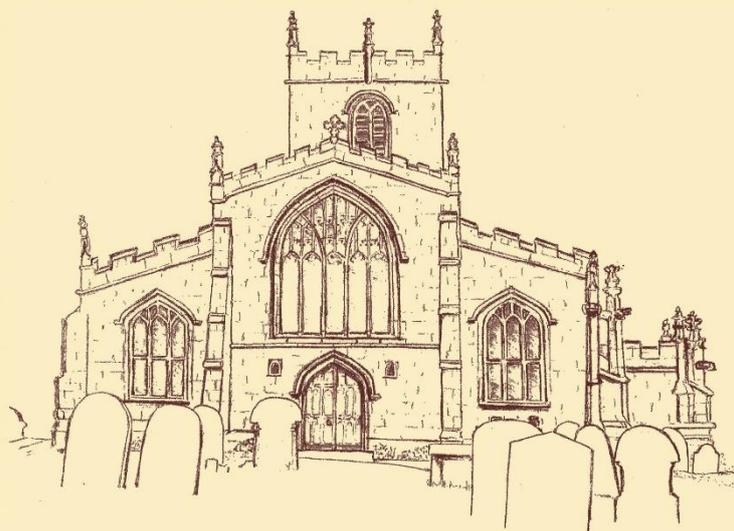
- "Take my wife—please!" - [Henny Youngman](#)
- "There but for the grace of God - Goes God." - [Winston Churchill](#)
- "If I could just say a few words ... I'd be a better public speaker." - [Homer Simpson](#)
- "If I am reading this graph correctly - I'd be very surprised." - [Stephen Colbert](#)
- "On his feet he wore ... blisters." - [Aristotle](#)
- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." - [Groucho Marx](#)
- "My uncle's dying wish was to have me sit in his lap; he was in the electric chair." - [Rodney Dangerfield](#)
- "I like going to the park and watching the children run around because they don't know I'm using blanks." - [Emo Philips](#)
- "I haven't slept for ten days, because that would be too long." - [Mitch Hedberg](#)
- "I sleep eight hours a day and at least ten at night." - [Bill Hicks](#)
- "I don't belong to an organized political party. I'm a Democrat." - [Will Rogers](#)
- "War does not determine who is right - only who is left." - [Bertrand Russell](#)
- "On the other hand, you have different fingers." - [Steven Wright](#)
- "He was at his best when the going was good." - [Alistair Cooke](#)
- "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."
- Jim Brewer, sometimes attributed to Groucho Marx

Come And Join Us Mothers' Union Coffee Morning

**Saturday 16th October 2021
10 am – 12 noon
in Church**



**All proceeds to help families in this country and
around the world**



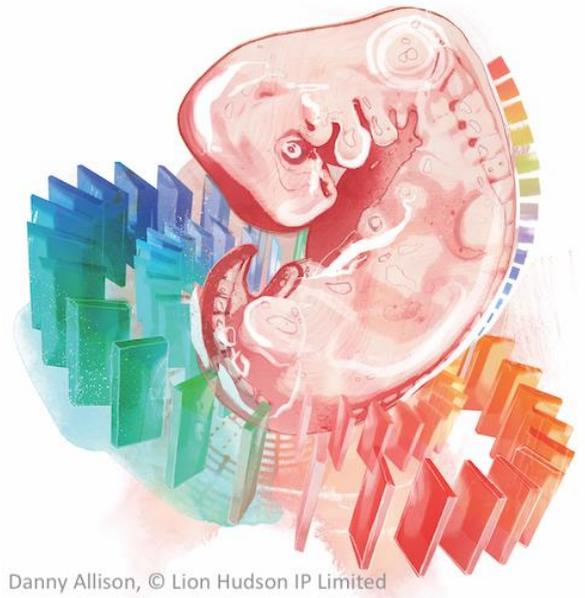
God in the Sciences

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.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

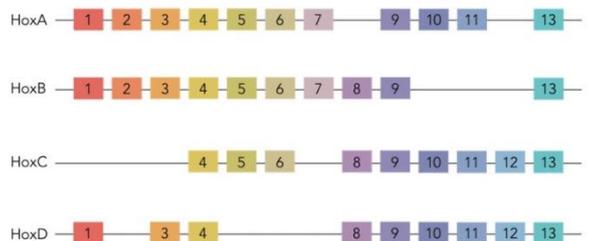
Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

In this context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs or internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the right way. The master-genes that control the whole process are called homeobox, or Hox genes for short.



Danny Allison, © Lion Hudson IP Limited

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes are organised into several clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development *and* the order in which they appear on the body.



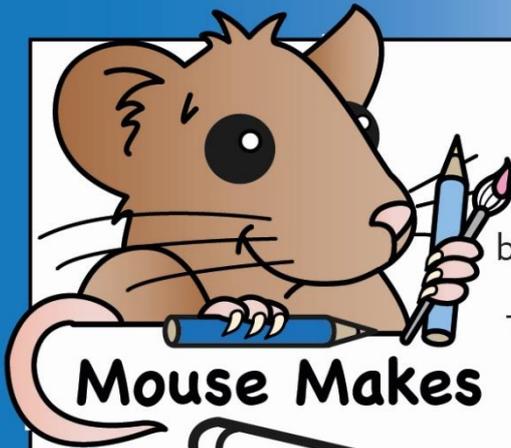
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As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”* The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*



Mouse Makes

"Come with me across the lake," Jesus said to his disciples, so they got into a boat and set out. While they were sailing Jesus slept. A big storm *blew* across the lake and the boat began to fill with water. They were in **great** danger. The disciples went to Jesus and woke him. They said, "*Master, mater, we are going to drown!*" Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, "*Be **still**, be **calm**.*" The wind stopped and the lake became calm.



Read the story
in Mark 4: 35-41



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Good reasons to have a church magazine

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, is a keen supporter of church magazines. Here's why!

After a year of lockdown, should we still bother with church magazines now that church life is picking up again? **Yes!**

It is read by lots of people. If each issue is read on average by two people, then more people see it than ever go to church. So, it is a very good way of putting Christian values and ideas into people's hands, whether they come to church or not.

It is a service to the community. Communities need local networks to thrive. Magazines are a great way of binding the people who live in one place together. Just delivering the church magazine is a way to get to know the area and the people.

It helps build bridges with other Christian churches in the area. We can share some details of their meetings and events.

It can make money. Well, enough to cover the costs of production! Let's aim for a revenue balanced on paid subscriptions and advertising.

It is seen by those outside the church family. Think of the people just moving into our area, or those who live here already and want to get married or to baptise their child. Our magazine can help them see the sort of community we are, and that we would welcome them to join us.

It is read by people who do not go to church, but who know someone who does. This is a major way of how groups, including churches, grow. Not many people walk into a church off their own bat. Most people are invited, or already have a connection.

It supports local businesses. Local businesses who advertise locally, can thrive.

It helps people develop skills. The editorial team will learn about design, marketing, GDPR, editing, copyright, writing, selling, artwork - and apologising.

It can help inform our community about itself – especially if we include a local history or local natural history section!

So, don't believe it if someone tells you that print is dead. It is not. Many people still prefer to read something they can hold in their hands. The future is not EITHER print OR digital, but BOTH AND. People will flick through a magazine that arrives through the door, even though they may never dream of visiting their local church's website

Editor: You too can contribute to its content; your stories and experiences can help others cope with what is going on in their lives and may even help bring them closer to God.

We will still be putting the magazine on the website for those who don't live local, some 41% of visitors are from the wider UK, next is Korea at 13%, followed by China at 8.5%, the US only accounts for 7.6% of the nearly 2,000 visitors we get each month.

Editor's ~~Lockdown~~ Humour

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

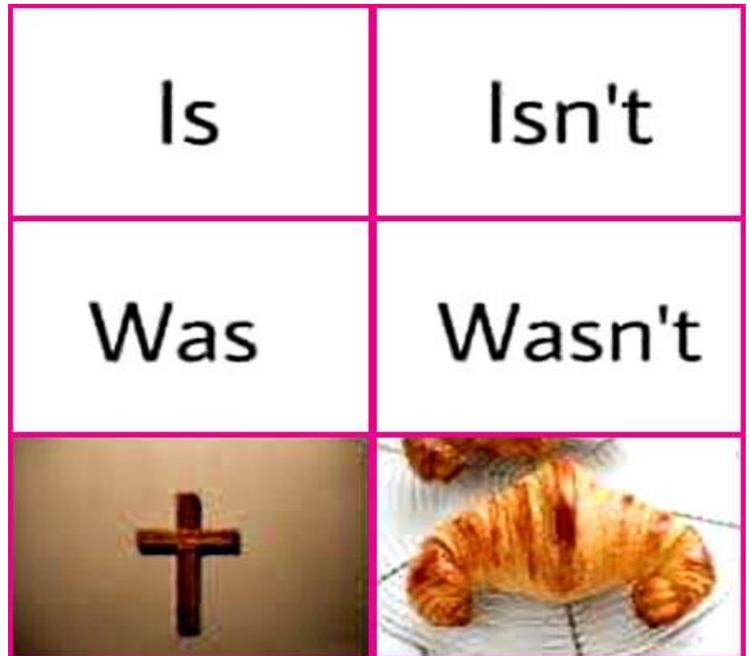
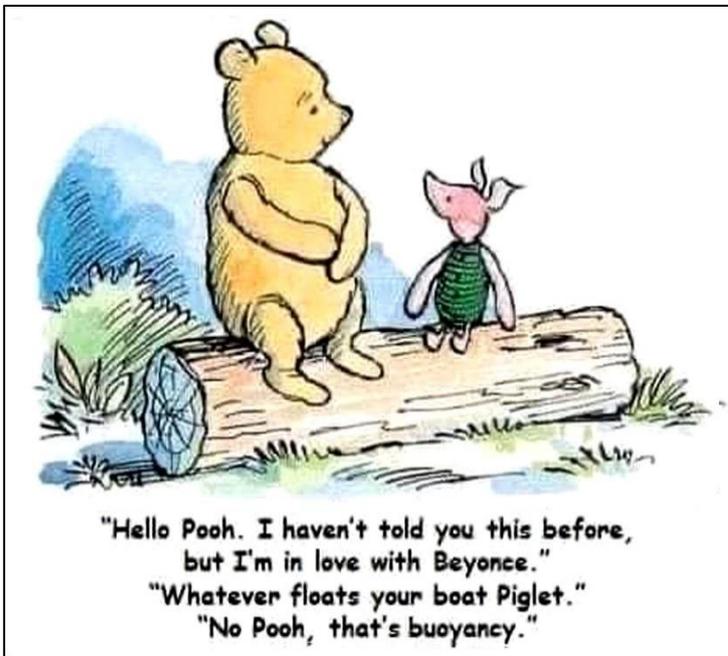
Failed to make [The Sunday Times – Rich list](#) again! That's seventy-five years in a row now.

Torpenhow Hill, Cumbria – when the Saxons arrived, they asked the locals the name of the hill, they called it "penn", the Welsh for hill. So, the Saxons added it to their name for a hill "tor" and called it Torpen (Hill Hill). Later the Norse arrived, and the same process was repeated, and they added their word for a hill "Haugr". So now it was Torpen Haugr (Hill Hill Hill). Later the Normans called it Torpenhow Hill (Hill Hill Hill Hill)

"Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cozy, doesn't try it on." - [Billy Connolly](#)

"People say 'Bill, are you an optimist?' And I say, 'I hope so.'" – [Bill Bailey](#)

I thought the other day it's about time I grew up and started to act more mature. Then I remembered, it's almost [conker season](#).



Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The cricket season has now finished. For the 1st XI, August started with an outstanding victory away at Elsecar with Whitley 1st XI winning by 8 wickets followed by a disappointing defeat at home to high flying Treeton. The 21st August saw the match at Wakefield abandoned due to rain and the final home game was an overwhelming win against relegated Wickersley. The final match, away at champions Appleby Frodingham, was a strange low scoring affair with Whitley bowling Appleby out for 112 with 20 overs remaining and Appleby bowling Whitley out for 108 with 10 overs remaining! Whitley 1st XI end the season in 7th place.

The 2nd XI lost to high flying Rotherham on 4th September where a total of 230 runs was not enough to hold Rotherham back and were defeated again at home by Sheffield United by 6 wickets in the final match on 11th September. The team ended up 9th in the table, just above the 3 relegated teams.

The 3rd XI has had an outstanding season and, with a convincing win against Harley 1st XI on 4th September, were looking to be promoted. However, on 11th September the team lost to fellow challengers for promotion Frecheville leaving both teams on the same number of points in joint 2nd place. Whitley achieved promotion because of a game average system introduced to deal with a change in the number of Divisions in 2022 and to deal with COVID cancellations so they compete in Division 6 next season.

Secretary: Joe Webster: whitleyhall@ycspl.co.uk Website: www.Whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Andrew Robinson

Defender of the Faith

It was 500 years ago, on 11th October 1521, that Pope Leo X granted the title 'Defender of the Faith' to King Henry VIII of England and Ireland. It recognised the King's defence of the sacrament of marriage, the supremacy of the Pope, and his opposition to the Protestant Reformation and the ideas of Martin Luther. The title has been inherited by all British monarchs since then.

Ironically, it was only 17 years later that Henry was excommunicated by another Pope, Paul III, because of his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Even more ironically, this came after Henry had his next queen, Anne Boleyn, executed. His infatuation with Anne had been the reason he decided excommunication was a price worth paying, in the hope that she would provide him with an heir.

Anne was a keen supporter of Martin Luther, and her influence – and the excommunication – led to the independence of Britain from the Roman Catholic Church, and therefore to the Reformation.

Anne was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I, the strongly Protestant and long-lived sovereign who was in fact the successor that Henry VIII had longed for. It just never occurred to him that it could be a woman.

Saint of the month - 1st October - Anthony Ashley-Cooper

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury - the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a “horror” of “cruelty and starvation”. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.



After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve their conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of ‘the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.’

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years, with Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of nine should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, and 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'.

One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'

How do you know when you're Middle-Aged?

Editor: 10 tell-tale signs that you may be

1. You don't understand what young peasants are talking about
2. You struggle to read Chaucer in weak candlelight
3. You hate rowdy taverns
4. You constantly worry you might have the Black Death
5. You don't know or care who Blondel is sleeping with
6. You tell your wife that Crusaders seem to look younger every year
7. You struggle with new technology such as the heavy plough and the long bow
8. You find Gothic architecture too modern
9. You keep forgetting who the King is
10. You dream of buying a second hovel in France

The Gardening Year – October 2021

Conditions recap. If you have limited sunlight or live in a very exposed site, you will need to plan your crops as these are not the best conditions for container plants to thrive. Think about the following.

Sunlight. is sunlight restricted in your area? Think about reflected surfaces, look for obscuring structures or perhaps even rethink your plot completely.

Wind. If prevailing winds are an issue, you'll need to plant low level crops such as compact bush varieties. You may even have to offer support to plants and install wind breakers.

Rain. In areas with low rainfall, you'll have to be vigilant about watering. Water. If lack of water is an issue you could plan for drought, resistant crops or install an irrigation system.

Time and energy. Gardening requires time and patience but can be planned and designed around your other commitments. a small established container garden may only take a couple of hours a week to maintain. But there will be times such as the sowing and harvesting season that require more work and you'll have to schedule this into your arrangements. Saving time. Shortcuts, you can of course, forgo the sowing altogether and buy established plants from a nursery or garden centre for transplanting into your prepared containers. This cuts out all the time needed for sowing seeds, transplanting seedlings, and taking care of them. It can be a great way for novice gardeners to see which crops are easy to take care of and which provide the best harvest. Share the work. Are there family or friends that could help out in your garden? Gardening is a great activity where you all work together to achieve a common goal, and there is no better goal than enjoying delicious home-grown food. You could set up a rota and ask your family to join in, you will be getting fresh air, learning new skills, and getting exercise too.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – October

Vegetables - Artichoke, Beetroot, Broccoli, Butternut Squash, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Chillies, Fennel, Garlic, Horseradish, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Marrow, Parsnips, Potatoes (Maincrop), Pumpkin, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Salsify, Shallots, Swede, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Truffles (Black), Truffles (White), Turnips, Watercress, Wild Mushrooms

Fruit - Apples, Bilberries, Blackberries, Elderberries, Figs, Grapes, Medlar, Pears, Quince

Herbs - Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Chestnuts, Chives, Cob Nuts, Hazelnuts, Parsley (Curly), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Thyme, Walnuts

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

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

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

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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

The UK and US in Afghanistan

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan>

Twenty years ago, on 7th October 2001, the first US and British forces arrived in Afghanistan to launch a massive military offensive following the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

The aim of the offensive was to find and neutralise the al-Qaeda militants under Osama bin Laden who had planned the aerial terror attack with support from the Taliban, killing nearly 3000 people. The Taliban had at that time been in power over most of Afghanistan for five years, tightening the screw with their own strict interpretation of sharia law.



The decision to send forces into Afghanistan – Operation Enduring Freedom – was made by President George W Bush, supported by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and was initially successful, with support from Northern Afghan forces, taking the final Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in December the same year. But the Taliban never went away, regrouping in the mountains and in neighbouring Pakistan.

Some 456 Britons lost their lives in Afghanistan in the 20-year conflict. And there were many other fatalities, including:

- 2,448 American soldiers
- 66,000 Afghan national military and police
- 51,000 Taliban fighters
- 47,245 Afghan civilians
- 3,846 US contractors
- 1,144 NATO allies
- 444 aid workers
- 72 journalists

In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers. - *Neville Chamberlain*

Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

D	A	R	E		C	H	E	R	U	B	I	M
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M	E	D	I	A		O	P	E	N	A	I	R
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A	P	O	S	T	A	S	Y		E	T	O	N

ERIC EYRE

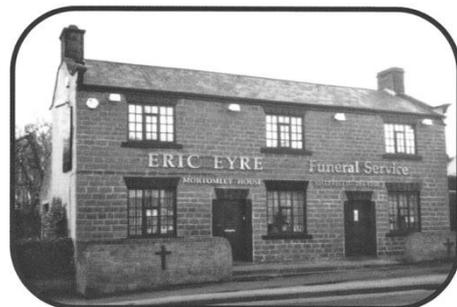
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British Institute of Funeral Directors Eric Eyre National President
1989 - 1990



It is time to eat Apples

You may need to look beyond the supermarket shelves to find them, but there's an exciting variety of apples from UK orchards - sharp apples, sweet apples, crunchy apples, softer-fleshed apples, red apples, yellow apples, green apples and everything in between. Many are perfect for enjoying on their own as a delicious, healthy, energy-boosting snack. And when used as an ingredient they can be transformed into some great desserts, combining magically with flavours such as caramel, cinnamon or blackberries.



Although the origins of the apple are not clear, it is almost certainly one of the first fruits to have been cultivated. Apples were a favourite of the ancient Greeks and considered a luxury fruit by the Romans. The apples familiar to us are a cultivated product, far removed from the small, sour crab apples that were the wild ancestors. Today apples are grown across the globe outside of tropical regions. China is by far the largest apple producing country, responsible for over 40% of the world's output. The apple (*Malus pumila*) is a member of the Rosaceae family, which includes roses, strawberries, raspberries, apricots, plums, and pears. There are thought to be over 7,000 varieties of apple.

Apples should be firm with taut unbroken skins. Many varieties have naturally freckled or dull matt surfaces - don't shy away from those without the high-sheen finish supermarkets have led us to expect. The odd blemish on apples grown with low/no pesticides is nothing to be afraid of. The fragrance of an apple is a good indicator of freshness and quality.

All 'eating' apples can be used in cooking but the opposite is not the case. Bramley is the definitive English cooking apple and it bakes to a wonderful fluffy texture. For cooked dishes requiring a firmer texture (such as apple tarts), Cox or Granny Smith are a reliable choice. Other main UK varieties include: Egremont Russet, Elstar, Spartan, Worcester Pearmain ideal for juicing. There are dozens of other varieties that are less widely available but often excellent; if you see a type you've never heard of, give it a try.

Apples lose flavour and dry out in a warm room and should be kept cool, in a plastic bag or crisper in the fridge (or a cold unheated garage) rather than in a fruit bowl. Apples are much less perishable than most fruit and many varieties will keep for a month or longer if bought fresh (beware those sold in shops may have been in storage for some time) and kept cool. Before eating or cooking give your apples a thorough scrub and rinse - apple trees are often treated with an aggressive program of chemical sprays. If peeling or slicing apples, drop the pieces in water acidulated with lemon juice to help prevent them oxidising and discolouring. Apple seeds contain amygdalin, a naturally occurring cyanide and sugar compound that degrades into hydrogen cyanide, so avoid eating or cooking the apple core.

The decline of apple growing in this country leaves us with impoverished choices, in terms of variety and quality, at a higher cost to the environment. Whilst big supermarkets' obsession with uniform, easy-store produce may be partly to blame, as consumers we all play a part. There's no real excuse for buying any apples grown outside the UK between late September and the end of the year.

Blackberry and Apple Pie - <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2001/oct/14/foodanddrink.recipes1>

Tarte Tatin: <http://www.hub-uk.com/tallyrecip02/recipe0051.htm>

Beer Baked Bramley Apples: <http://outinncheshire.co.uk/articles/Mild.htm>

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Chapelton & District Probus Club



PROBUS Club started face-to-face meetings again in September at the Grenoside Community Centre. We followed the very conservative safety rules which the Community Centre is continuing with - spacing of chairs, masks advised for all other than those speaking and ventilation and a one-way system to ensure the safety of our members.

For the meeting on 8th September we had a really important and fascinating presentation planned with police fraud specialist Andy Foster on the fight against fraud, especially on the phone and what we can do to avoid fraud. This was not only interesting but very important as we have all become fed-up with the attempts to scam us via the phone. We hope to have Andy's colleague who specialises in fraud via e-mail, internet social media and text messages, at a future meeting.

We also returned to the tradition of lunch after meetings although these will no longer be at Whitley Hall following their decision not to welcome us any more. The first time, 20 members enjoyed a three course lunch at The Acorn at Burncross. Future lunches in 2021 and also our Annual Dinner on 2nd November, will be at Wortley Hall.

In October we welcome back retired consultant surgeon Andrew Raftery who entertained us last time with his story of becoming a senior physician and then becoming an amateur actor in his retirement – From Theatre to Theatre. This time he will cover the history of organ transplantation.

The annual membership fee is still reduced to £15 for this year only so there will never be a better time to join. If you are interested or would like to join a meeting as a guest, please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

Upcoming meetings:-

13th October – Andrew Raftery "The History of Organ Transplantation"

10th November – Stephen Gay "In a Cornish Landscape - Part 2"

Contact details: E-Mail chapelton.probus@gmail.com

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

Andrew Robinson

Crossword Puzzle

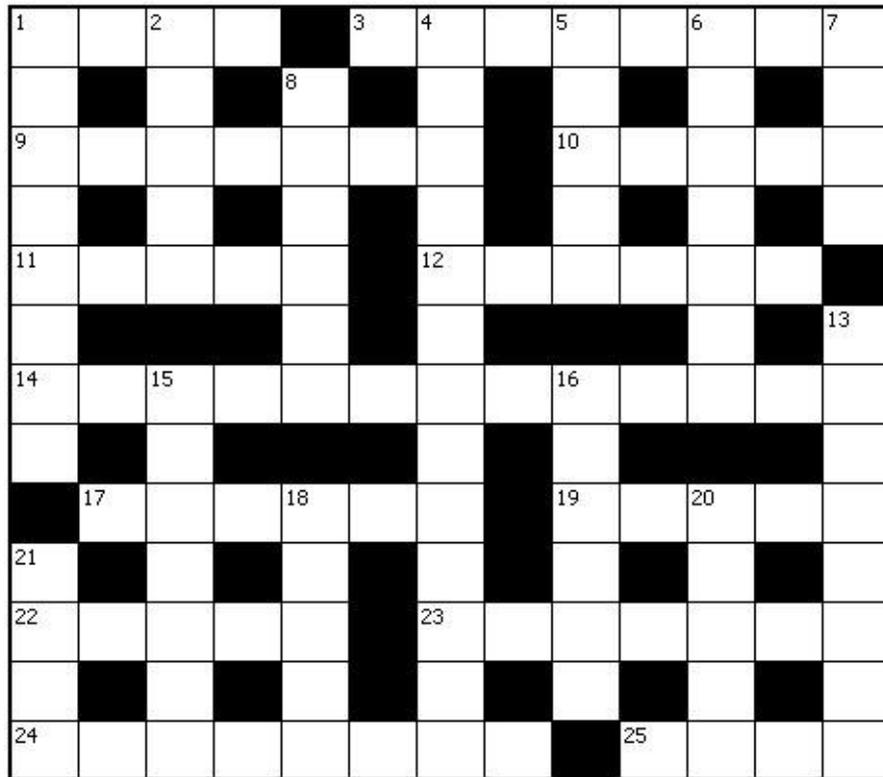
Clues Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Clues Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Solution is on Page 22



British Pilgrimage Trust

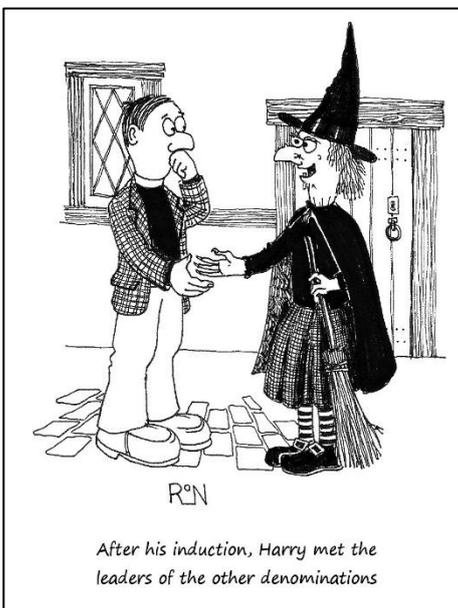


Be a Pilgrim Pioneer with the British Pilgrimage Trust

The British Pilgrimage Trust have launched a new Volunteer Programme to help make sure the new pilgrimage routes featured on their website are the best they can be. They are looking for "Pilgrim Pioneers" to test and review each walking route.

See: <https://britishpilgrimage.org/volunteering/test-walking-route-pioneers/>

RT



Prayers and Poems Page

Autumn Prayer - By Daphne Kitching

Dear Loving, Father God,

As the season changes and we enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn, there are other changes which we don't enjoy. Changes we cannot control; changes and suffering in the world, beyond our comprehension; changes to our work routines, or health, or circumstances; changes which cause us anxiety and uncertainty.

When everything seems to be falling around us like the autumn leaves, help us, Lord, to remember that you stand firm. You are our rock. You never change. You are always faithful, always with us, as we move into each new day and each new season.

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus, so that by putting our trust in Him, we can know the security of your love, for ever!

In His name, we thank you, Sovereign Lord. **Amen**

The Pilgrim's Relief - Prayers of the Western Highlanders

Each one, O God, do thou relieve
In all his suffering on land or sea,
In grief, or wound, or in tears, receive,
To thy peaceful halls his leader be
As day doth fade.

I am weary and weak and chill,
Weary of travelling on land and sea,
Of crossing moor and the foam-white hill,
Grant peace anew of thine ease to me
As day doth fade.

O my God's Father, loved one,
Let the care of my crying suffice;
With thee I would wish atonement done,
Through the witness and the ransom price
Which thy Son paid;

With Jesus to find restfulness
In the blest habitation of peace,
In the paradise of gentleness,
In the fairy-bower of release
Mercy-arrayed.

Remember the Stories? - By Nigel Beeton

Remember the stories that we used to read?
Heroic adventures – we loved them indeed!
We'd read in the garden, if wet, in the porch,
Or under the covers at night with a torch!

Our fingers would avidly trace lines of text
Of what Katy Did, and what she Did Next.
And, starting this journey along Mem'ry Lane
We can't forget Biggles, up there in his plane!

We laughed and we laughed at Jennings at school.
Tormenting his teachers by acting the fool.
Just William's young friends, and their latest trick –
"I'll scream and I'll scream till I make myself sick!"

Black Beauty the horse brought a tear to our eye –
Some stories brought laughter, and some made us cry.
Like Paddington Bear, and the things he would do
Arriving by train from Darkest Peru.

There was Noddy, and Rupert, and Peter Pan, too;
The woodland adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh;
Little Women and Crusoe and Chalet School Girls;
Just So – all such stories were wonderful pearls!

This poem could go on for page after page
If your favourite is missing, please don't fill with rage –
Just nip to the loft, and dig through that box,
And sit down and read – ignoring the clocks!

To the Son - A Prayer of Erasmus, 1469–1536 - most renowned scholar of his age.

Most gracious Son, may your teaching dispel the darkness of ignorance in our mind, and may your commands be beacons of light showing us the path to peace. And as we walk on that path, may we find your footprints on the ground, that we may place our own feet where you have trodden. We believe that you will strengthen our limbs when they grow weary, and raise our spirits when they become heavy, because nothing gives you greater pleasure than watching us follow the way of salvation. We pray that you will always be our friend and our guide, and so bring us to your Father's heavenly kingdom.

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

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email: ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com

Ecclesfield Cubs

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

Ecclesfield Beavers

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

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

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:
whitleyhall@yicspl.co.uk
Website:
www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Chapelton and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month
in Grenoside Community Centre
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow
chapelton.probus@gmail.com
We are now on Zoom see
www.chapelton-probus.org.uk

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



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