

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February 2022

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

**Price 60p**

# First Words

Welcome to the first Church magazine of 2022!

I always find February a very tough month. It is still winter, we still have long dark nights and days with grey skies. By February I need more sunshine!

February begins with a celebration of Christ's Light - the feast of **Candlemas** which falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, although we are celebrating it a few days early on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** in the 10am service this year.

We continue our usual pattern of **mid-week Communions** on **Thursdays in February at 9.30am**.

On **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February**, after the Parish Eucharist at 10am, we will be having **Baptisms at 12 noon**, and at **5pm** on that day there will be a **Wedding Rehearsal** before the Evening Service at 6.30pm.

On **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February** the **PCC** will meet in Church at **7.30pm**.  
The first **Wedding** of the year is on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm**.

On **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 10am** we will have our monthly **All Age Celebration Service** - look out for more details. At **6.30pm** that evening there will be a celebration of the **Eucharist**.

**Soul Sanctuary**, an introduction to Christian Meditation & Contemplative Prayer will be on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm**.

**St Mary's Gathering** will be on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm** in Church, and the **Daytime Gathering** will be held on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am**, in Church after the mid-week communion.

On **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** there will be a joint meeting of the **PCCs of St Mary's and St Mark's Grenoside**. We will be meeting with the Associate Archdeacon, Revd. Ian Parkinson to discuss Focal and Oversight Ministry and our parishes.  
**Please note that this meeting will be at St Mark's.**

God bless,  
Tim



Clicking on images and links in the online magazine may tell you more...  
**Front Cover – Winter Flowering Cherry**  
**Back Cover – Lych Gate**

# Andrew Jones

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# Prayer for the Month

*Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Collect for Candlemas, also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Forty days after His birth in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, to offer the sacrifice for their first-born son - you can read the story in St Luke's Gospel chapter 2 verses 22-40.

Every firstborn male was dedicated as holy to God, and was presented in the Temple. It is interesting to note that Mary and Joseph gave the offering of the poor - a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. From the moment of His birth Jesus was dedicated to God.

When they were in the Temple and ancient holy man, Simeon, saw them and saw in Jesus something that no one else saw that morning. He saw that Jesus, this tiny, helpless baby, was the long-promised Messiah. He said two things to Jesus' parents on that morning. Firstly he told them that their child would bring the light of God's love and redemption, not only to the people of Israel, but to all nations.

Secondly he spoke of the opposition that Jesus would face as He fulfilled His calling. Simeon told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul as she watched her son mocked, as He faced opposition, as He was arrested and crucified.

The collect, the special prayer for this day, reminds us that Christ who is the eternal word of God, the Son of the Father came 'in substance of our flesh' - as one of us.

In Jesus the eternal God takes our human nature, and so, in a sense when He is presented to the Father, human nature, humanity itself is presented in Him.

Jesus stands not just with us; He represents us. Our hope and our prayer is that when God the Father looks on us, He sees not us, but Christ.

When Christ is baptised in the river Jordan He repents on our behalf; when He dies on the Cross, He dies for us, in our place, and when He rises again on Easter Day His victory over death and sin and hell is for us.

In Christ God doesn't simply come among us, He takes us to Himself. In Christ God has reached out to heal and renew our human nature.

At Candlemas we look at Christ with the eyes of the aged Simeon, and see in this tiny child God visiting His people; we see the light and the hope of the world.

God bless,

Tim

## Coffee Shop a big Thank You

In 2021 the Coffee Shop raised £1860 for the Church restoration fund. The money goes towards repairs, upkeep and improvement of St Mary's.

Thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers and to all who continue to support the Coffee Shop.

God bless,

Tim

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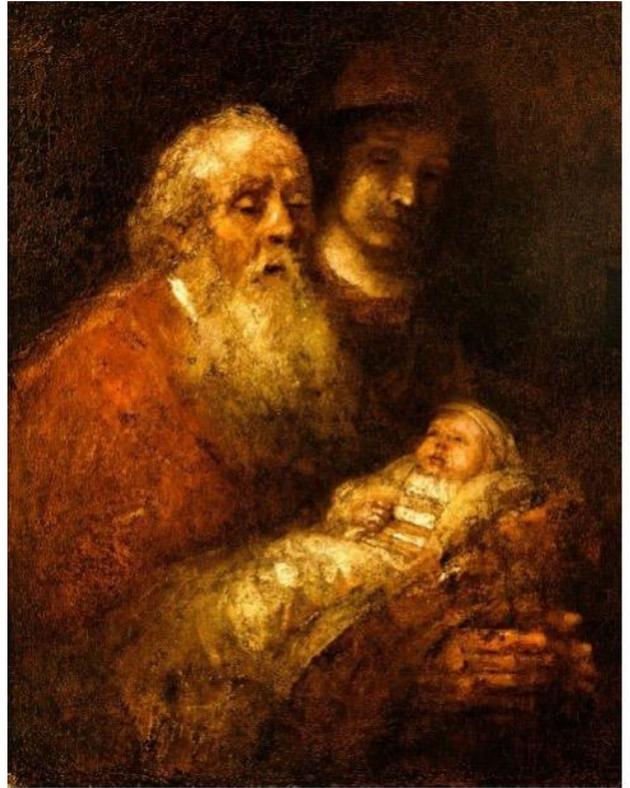
# God in The Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Rembrandt. If you use it, please would you add at the end: Picture reprinted by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.



Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

# St James the Least of All

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

## On how to survive a residential conference

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless. As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



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**First Wednesday of the month 6-8pm**

**Thursdays 11.45 – 12.30pm**

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# Thought for the Month

## *Focal Ministry and Oversight Ministry.*

The Church of England is facing a very challenging time at the moment. We are facing a shortage of funds and of clergy. The past two years of the pandemic has made this situation worse. Each Diocese in the Church, including the Diocese of Sheffield, is trying to find a way to provide sustainable ministry in its parishes.

Rather than simply merging parishes into larger and larger groups with fewer and fewer clergy, Sheffield Diocese is pioneering a new way of supporting ministry in all of its parishes. The Diocesan vision says:

“The Diocese of Sheffield is called to grow a sustainable network of Christlike, lively and diverse Christian communities in every place which are effective in making disciples and in seeking to transform our society and God’s world.”

The plan is to have parishes linked in mission areas with each parish growing a ministry team led by Focal Ministers, and the teams in the mission area supported by an Oversight Minister or Ministers.

The Focal Ministers will be based in a local Church, they may be lay or ordained and will usually be volunteers. They will be supported by a local ministry team of people who lead the worship and mission of the Church.

The Oversight Minister will work with the Focal Ministers and ministry teams in the Churches in the mission area. They will usually be ordained and their role will be to work with the ministry team and focal ministers in leading worship and teaching in the churches, and supporting the focal leaders.

Exactly how this works out in detail will vary from Church to Church and from mission area to mission area, but it is the model for ministry which will eventually embrace every parish in our Diocese.

Although these changes are a response to a crisis in the Church of England, the idea of ministry teams of ordained and non-ordained ministers, working together to lead and enable the worship, teaching, outreach and pastoral care in the local Church is a healthy one.

In many ways it makes more formal patterns of leadership shared between Vicars, Lay Readers and Pastoral teams, that St Mary’s has been used to over the years. It is a healthy and Biblical pattern of ministry and leadership.

Our first response must be to pray. To pray for our bishops Pete and Sophie in this very challenging situation. But also to pray for St Mary’s. Over the next few years we will need to find out who God is calling to become Focal Ministers in our Church, who God is calling into leading worship or into pastoral ministry.

For more information about Focal Ministry, see our Diocesan web page:  
[www.sheffield.anglican.org/focal-ministry](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org/focal-ministry).

God bless, Tim

# Valentine's Day 14<sup>th</sup> February

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14th February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

## St Valentine's Day, a poem

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.

# From the Registers

## Baptisms:

Sunday 5th December

“ “ “

Freddie Mark Brown - Max Lewis Robert Humphrey

Spenser Jude Weston - Heidi May Weston

Sunday 23rd January

Theo Albert Robinson - Olivia Leigh Richards

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

## Marriages

Monday 13th December

Anthony Louis Storr & Rachael Leanne Coulson

Wednesday 22nd December

Callum Worsnop & Holly Carr

Monday 27th December

John Cowgill & Bridie Mulgrew

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

## Funerals

Monday 6th December

Irene Smith 90

Thursday 23rd December

Peter Albert Jones 85

Thursday 30th December

Christine Doris Witham 82

Wednesday 19th January

George Bradshaw 90

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

# Why you should do housework

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties.

Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.

The study, published in BMJ Open, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, “was associated with higher cognitive function” among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.

# What a tree can do for you

Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.

That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185million in antidepressants each year.

A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: “Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health.”

# 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.

## The Love of Wisdom of Natural Things

Some time ago a scientist was invited to speak at the Dewsbury Women's Institute. He spoke about his research on polymers, hoping that the women of this Yorkshire mill town would connect with his desire to develop new fibres.

One person in particular, a woman called Betty who had worked in a mill since the age of 15, listened as if her life depended on it, and peppered him with questions afterwards. She had always been interested in how things work, but until that day had not found anyone to answer her questions. Whenever she had asked about the processes that they were using in the mill, she was just told to get on with her job.

From the outside, science can seem a closed specialty, hemmed in by intimidating jargon. When McLeish described science as 'the love of wisdom of natural things', however, he realised he was opening a door. He was moved to see that Betty was not the only person who shed a tear when her questions were finally taken seriously, confirming that her enquiring mind was indeed probing in the right direction – only fifty years too late.

Hearing about people like Betty reminds me that science is a very natural activity for anyone to be involved in. McLeish is convinced that there is a future in 'science therapy'. In his book *Faith and Wisdom in Science*, where this story appears, he asks the question "If a reintroduction to the activity of representing both inner and outer worlds in paint, music and drama can help to heal minds, what hope might there be for a participation in a gentle and contemplative science in restoring a broken or misunderstood relationship with the physical world?"

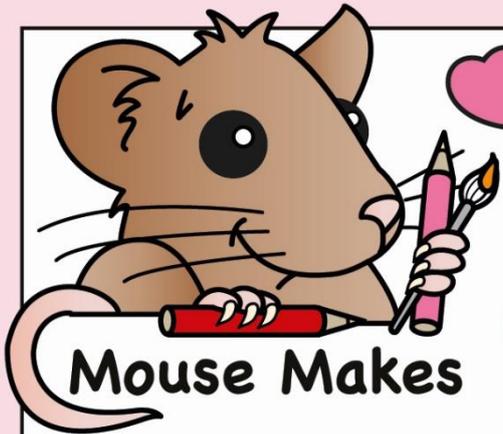
This story inspired me to run a number of hands-on science activities with adult audiences in churches. I have extracted DNA from strawberries with a midweek group for older people, organised hands-on exhibits to liven up lecture or discussion events, and even had groups extracting DNA from their own cheek cells.

Every time I lead activities like these, I find that grown-ups are grateful for the opportunity to have a go at science themselves. I love helping church-based groups, in particular, to reconnect with science and celebrate what they find. Science is not just for children and professionals – it is for everyone to enjoy and explore the world God made.

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### ***Martin Luther King, Jr. On Science and Religion***

"There may be a conflict between softminded religionists and toughminded scientists," he said. "But not between science and religion. Their respective worlds are different and their methods are dissimilar. Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge which is power; religion gives man wisdom which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals. They are complementary."



# Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ and with all your

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 22:37



How did God show He **loved** us?  
Read 1 John 4:9

Word search grid:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
Whoever lives in love lives in

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.

1 John 4:16



Love is ..  
Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your

\_\_\_\_\_ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

### Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

### Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

### God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



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## Website of the Week: Mental Health Exercises

In the northern hemisphere, this time of year can be dark in every sense. The Jesuits in Britain, creators of the wonderful Pray As You Go website, have devised seven mental health audio exercises designed to encourage, in God's presence, prayerful awareness of any feelings of unease or distress. These short exercises last no more than eight minutes. They address addiction, aging, anxiety, depression, grief, insomnia and loneliness. It is hoped that they will be helpful for anyone who might be struggling at the moment. To access these, and other rich online spiritual resources, visit: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie).

## Editor's ~~Lockdown~~ Humour

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

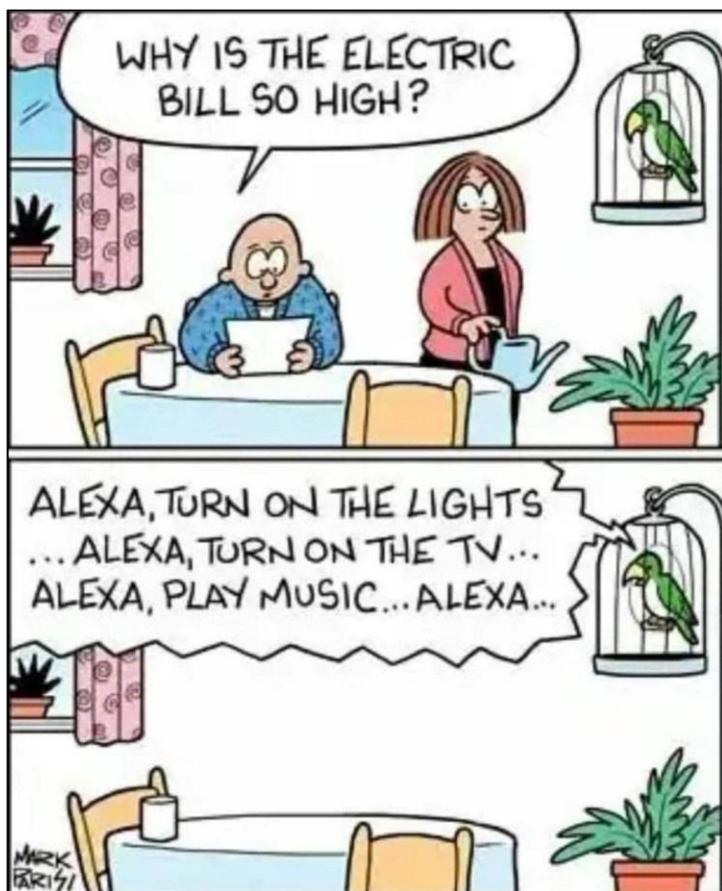
If a man speaks in the [forest](#) and there is no woman there to hear him... Is he still [wrong](#)?  
The wife asked me if I'd seen the dog bowl. I said: "To be honest, I didn't even know he played [cricket](#)!"

I don't know what is scarier at the moment, taking a [lateral flow](#) test or weighing yourself.

There is nothing like a little [tomato soup](#) to sooth the soul. Even if it it's cold, over ice, with a celery stalk and vodka...

Just because I'm [awake](#) at 8am doesn't mean I'm ready to do things...

I'll never forget the look on the checkout girls face, when she scanned my packet of bird seed. And I asked her "How long does it take for the birds to grow once I sow them"?



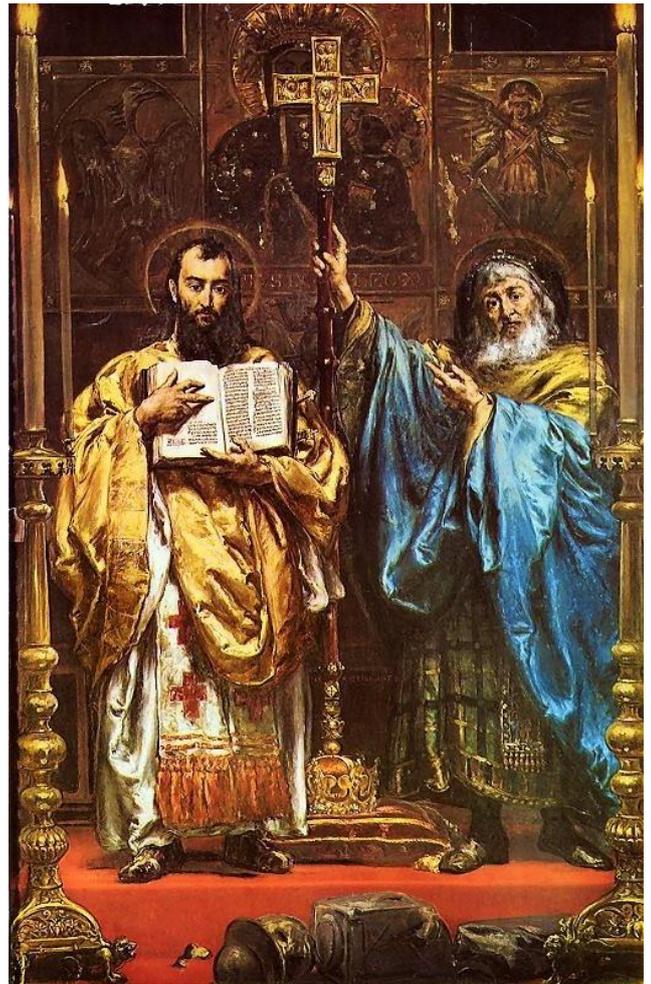
# Saints of the month - 14th Feb Cyril and Methodius, helping the Slavs

Cyril and Methodius are saints for anyone with good secular qualifications, who now suspects that God may be calling them to use those skills in His service.

Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born into a wealthy family in Thessalonica, in 826 and 815 respectively. Their upbringing destined them for lives of respect and influence.

Methodius, the elder brother, was appointed governor in a Slav province of the Roman Empire, although within a few years he became a monk on Mount Olympus in Asia Minor. Meanwhile his younger brother, Cyril, went into academia in Constantinople, becoming a lecturer in philosophy and librarian.

But then, in 863, the ruler of Moravia, Rostislav, asked the emperor to send him some Christian teachers who could conduct services and teach his people in the Slavonic tongue. Emperor Michael III chose Cyril and Methodius.



It was a daunting task, for the Slavonic language had not yet been written down. But nonetheless, the brothers methodically set about their great work.

Cyril used his academic ability to create an alphabet for the Moravians, which eventually became the Cyrillic alphabet. The brothers then used this written language to teach Christianity in Slavonic, and to provide a way for the Moravians to worship in their own language. The brothers translated much of the liturgy and the gospels to this form.

During their time in Moravia, the brothers faced opposition from missionaries of the German Church, who believed that the official languages of the church should only be Hebrew, Greek or Latin. But the Pope pronounced that both brothers were orthodox, and made them both bishops, with Methodius ending up as Archbishop of Rastislav and Svatopluk.

Cyril and Methodius have been held in high honour, as men who pioneered the use of the vernacular language in church services. Cyril would have been astonished if he had known the eventual consequences of his hard work. For not only did the Slavonic language spread quickly, with him becoming known as the Father of Slavonic Literature, but Slavonic went on to become the language of the Liturgy in the 9th century Russian Church.

# George Herbert, vicar and poet – 27th Feb

On this day the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn '[Let all the world in every corner sing](#)', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.

He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he had graduated, he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry



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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 World Ahead

Editor: Dr Peter Brierley considers what 2022 may hold for us. Dr Peter Brierley is a church statistician and may be contacted on [peter@brierleyres.com](mailto:peter@brierleyres.com)

Towards the end of every year The Economist publishes a comprehensive paperback looking at the year to come. For 2022, The World Ahead looks at 10 main issues, and while of course these reflect a commercial and financial viewpoint, they are also areas of concern to Christians also. They are:

**1) Democracy v autocracy** – the tensions between the rival political systems of America and China will continue to involve trade, tech regulations, vaccinations, and space stations.

**2) Pandemic to endemic** – new treatments are coming, but unless more people can be vaccinated globally, Covid-19 will become yet another endemic disease, affecting the poor more than the rich.

**3) Inflation worries** – the supply-chain interruptions and increased energy demands have pushed up prices. Will that affect charity and church finances? The UK also has an acute labour shortage.

**4) The future of work** – the work-from-home syndrome will probably mean more ‘hybrid’ workstations. Women are keener to work from home. Could this impact church life, and, if so, in what ways?

**5) The new techlash** – American and European governments have been trying to rein in the tech giants. Meanwhile, China is demanding they focus on geostrategic advantage, not “frivolities like games and shopping.”

**6) Crypto grows up** – the new crypto-currencies are being domesticated. Where will the future standard of finance fall? The central banks or somewhere else? It is still to be determined. Such issues may affect the Church Commissioners, but probably not the local church!

**7) Climate crunch** – this affects us all but still “a striking lack of urgency prevails among policymakers.” And global success, if it can be achieved, will require co-operation between the West and China.

**8) Travel trouble** – the transition to an endemic from a zero-Covid suppression (as in Australasia) may be difficult. Future business travel is likely to be much less (zoom taking over), so holiday travel could cost more. What will this mean for international Christian gatherings?

**9) Space races** – “2022 will be the first year in which more people go into space as paying passengers than government employees.” China will finish its new space station; NASA is crashing a probe into an asteroid.

**10) Political footballs** – the Beijing Winter Olympics and the football World Cup in Qatar will show just how far sport can bring nations together.

Such is the global perspective, as seen by economists. What difference would Christian leaders bring to the table? Church planting would be an obvious candidate, but there is also a need to encourage dispirited Christian people, to strengthen and empower youth work, to decide the best way forward for congregations whose churches are no longer viable, to develop a vision to meet national spiritual need, to enable leadership to focus on the top priorities without distraction on lesser things, and finally, to revitalise faith in the inspiration, authority and power of God's Word.

## In memory of Dolly the Sheep

Just 25 years ago, on 22nd February 1997, scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced that they had successfully cloned a mammal from an adult cell for the first time: a sheep named Dolly.



Dolly – named after country singer Dolly Parton – was not the first cloned mammal, however. Another sheep had been cloned from an embryo cell as early as 1984. Dolly was made from an adult mammary cell, which had been thought impossible.

The idea was to open up possibilities in breeding and in medicine, but Christians and others were alarmed at the possibilities that seemed to be opening up for human cloning, which some said raised difficulties because humans were made in the image of God.

The Vatican called for a total ban on the cloning of human beings, which it said was a “dangerous experiment” that could undermine human dignity. But a number of Jewish thinkers argued that in certain circumstances it could be an acceptable and compassionate option.

Over the years Dolly gave birth to six lambs but in 2000 was found – with other sheep at Roslin – to be infected with a virus causing lung cancer; she was then diagnosed with arthritis, which was treated successfully, but in 2003 she was discovered to have tumours growing in her lungs and was euthanised to prevent her suffering, at the age of six. A healthy sheep would normally live to the age of 10 or 12.

Dolly's body was donated to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where she has become one of the most popular exhibits.

***Tim Lenton***

# The Gardening Year – February

**Essential Plant Foods** - It has been shown that something like fifteen or sixteen substances appear to be vital from the gardener's point of view. However, the four most important foods are nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium (potash) and calcium, with magnesium running these to a close fifth and Sulphur, iron, boron, manganese, copper, zinc, and molybdenum tagging along. Somewhere in the rear. It is common to refer to the first four as major and the rest as trace elements. This is a fair enough description provided it is understood that all are quality essential to healthy, plant growth and that what makes the first group take precedence over the second. It's simply that these elements are needed in greater quantity. The first four nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, and calcium are most likely to be deficient in soil, and are in consequence, those that the gardener will most frequently need to supply.

## What each food does

**Nitrogen** has its most marked effect upon rate and vigour of growth and colour of foliage, when nitrogen is in short supply, plants tend to be stunted, and leaves are small and pale or bluish in colour. Add nitrogen in a suitable form and the rate of growth immediately increases, and leaves become large, lush and dark green.

**Phosphorus** also has a considerable effect on growth though not quite as much as in the case of nitrogen. Nevertheless, when phosphorus is very deficient there will be many of the symptoms of nitrogen starvation.

**Potassium** - Perhaps the most spectacular effect of potassium is on roots which grow freely when it is abundant, but are poor and stunted when it is lacking. Potash however the principal fruit forming fertiliser. When there is insufficient potash in the soil, fruits tend to be poorly coloured and lacking in flavour, faults which disappear directly when potash is added. Potash also has a striking effect on foliage for when it is deficient leaves particularly of fruit trees, becoming scorched at the edges much as they would be scorched by drought or excessive heat.

**Calcium** is the element which the gardener adds to the soil when he limes it, it enters into the constitution of all plants and is essential to them. Lime must be regarded as one of the major soil foods because of its importance in the soil itself where it flocculates clay and corrects acidity, thereby stimulating bacterial activity and aiding the liberation of other plant foods.

**Complete or balanced** fertilisers are terms used to describe any mixtures of chemicals which provide nitrogen phosphorus and potash in reasonable quantity i.e., 7%nitrogen 7%phosphorous,7%pot ash. These are the three most likely to be in short supply and in consequence that the so called complete fertilizer is the best general standby for the gardener

**Colin Williams**

# Eat the Seasons – February

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

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

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

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

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

# God So Loved the World

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the nature of true love.

*‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16)*

This month, as we mark St Valentines’ Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. God’s love is unconditional: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! ‘There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.’ (Philip Yancey).

God’s love is sacrificial: God’s love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God’s love. He died for our sins to give us access to God’s love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God’s love is forgiving: According to the film Love Story, ‘Love means never having to say you’re sorry.’ Yet Jesus’ love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: “I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!”

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

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## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

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# ERIC EYRE

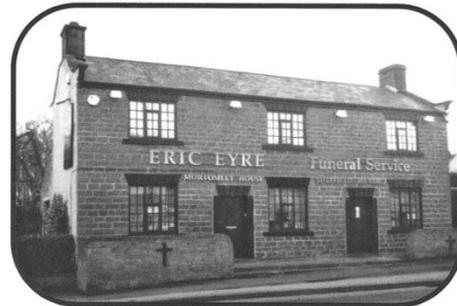
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# It is time to eat Parsnips

Pale yellow or ivory in colour and shaped like a slightly bulbous carrot, parsnips are one of the tastiest and most appealing root vegetables. Cheap and simple to prepare, their soft, fragrant, slightly sweet flesh adds a warm, comforting element to dishes.

Parsnips have been cultivated by humans for over 2,000 years. In ancient times parsnips and carrots were often referred to by the same name (pastinaca was used by Pliny to describe both). The writings of Apicius indicate that the Romans held the parsnip in some esteem. They were a ubiquitous and nutritious staple food for centuries in Europe. Before sugar was widely available parsnips were used to sweeten dishes such as cakes and jams. Their popularity declined following the introduction of the potato, and this decline continued as sugar became more readily available. The parsnip is now not commonly eaten outside Northern European countries.



Wild parsnips are found across Europe and Asia. The cultivated form - *Pastinaca sativa* - belongs to the umbelliferae family which includes carrots, chervil, parsley, fennel and celeriac. Parsnips are a good source of vitamin C, fibre, folate and potassium (increased potassium in the diet is associated with a lowering in blood pressure).

Buying and cooking - Parsnips should be firm and dry. The likelihood of a parsnip having a tough, woody core seems to increase with size. Irregularly shaped parsnips won't taste any different just a little fiddlier and more wasteful to prepare. Flavour and sweetness are increased by frost, so parsnips are better during mid/late winter. Keep in a perforated, unsealed plastic bag in the bottom of the fridge. They can last for 2 or 3 weeks but keep a check and use them before they get soft or withered. To prepare - wash, peel, trim both ends and cut according to use.

Raw parsnip is good grated in a salad. Roasting or steaming are the best cooking methods (boiled parsnip can be a bit watery). Steam parsnip chunks until soft (10 - 15 minutes). Roast parsnip in a moderate oven (180°C) for around 20 minutes for chunks, 30 - 40 minutes for whole parsnips. Whole roast parsnips are delicious accompanied by a yoghurt or sour cream dip flavoured with (for example) garlic, lemon or coriander.

## Spicy Parsnip Soup Ingredients

1 tsp cumin seeds	675g parsnips, diced
½ tsp ground turmeric	2 medium size tomatoes, quartered
½ tsp mustard seeds	1.2l vegetable stock
1 large onion, cut into 8 chunks	1 tbsp lemon juice
2 garlic cloves	

## Method

Pre-heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7

In a bowl, mix together the olive oil and coriander seeds, cumin seeds, ground turmeric and mustard seeds. Add the onion, garlic cloves, parsnips, and the tomatoes - mix well to coat. Spread over a heavy baking sheet, then roast for 30 mins or until tender.

Spoon into a food processor or liquidiser with half the vegetable stock and process until smooth.

Pour into a pan and add the remaining vegetable stock, season, then heat until barely simmering.

Remove from the heat and stir in 1 tbsp lemon juice.

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## Chapeltown & District Probus Club



In January, we welcomed back historian Ian Morgan, who last presented to us 8 years ago. The title of Ian's intriguing presentation was "Footpads, Kings and Highmaymen". Ian used a stretch of the Great North Road to give a historical talk about the villages and towns in North Nottinghamshire including Retford and Tuxford. Extremely interesting. As Wortley Hall was temporarily closed for deep cleaning, the meeting was followed by lunch at the recently re-opened Staindrop Lodge in Chapeltown – clearly still in the process of undertaking improvements and upgrades.

We welcome all new members and, 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 in Grenoside Community Centre (followed by lunch at Wortley Hall):-**

9<sup>th</sup> February – Paul Adey "History of the Motor Industry – Part 1"

9<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Meeting

Contact details: E-Mail [chapeltown.probus@gmail.com](mailto:chapeltown.probus@gmail.com),

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

**Andrew Robinson**

# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)

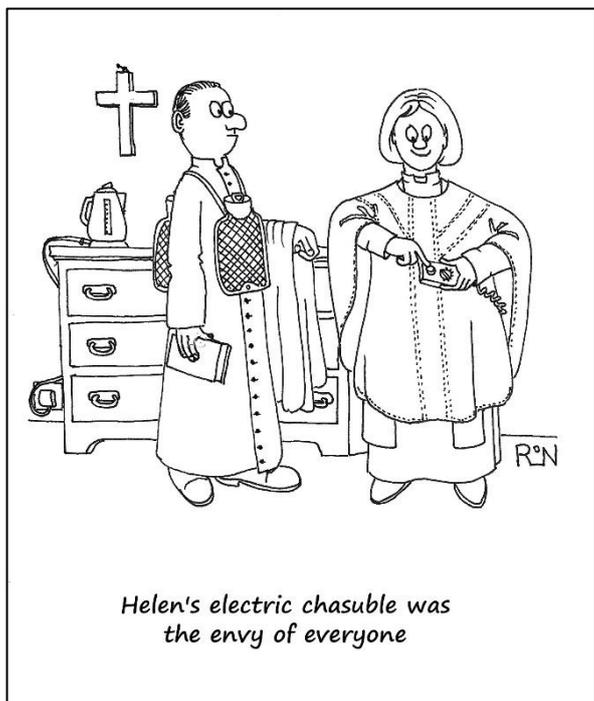
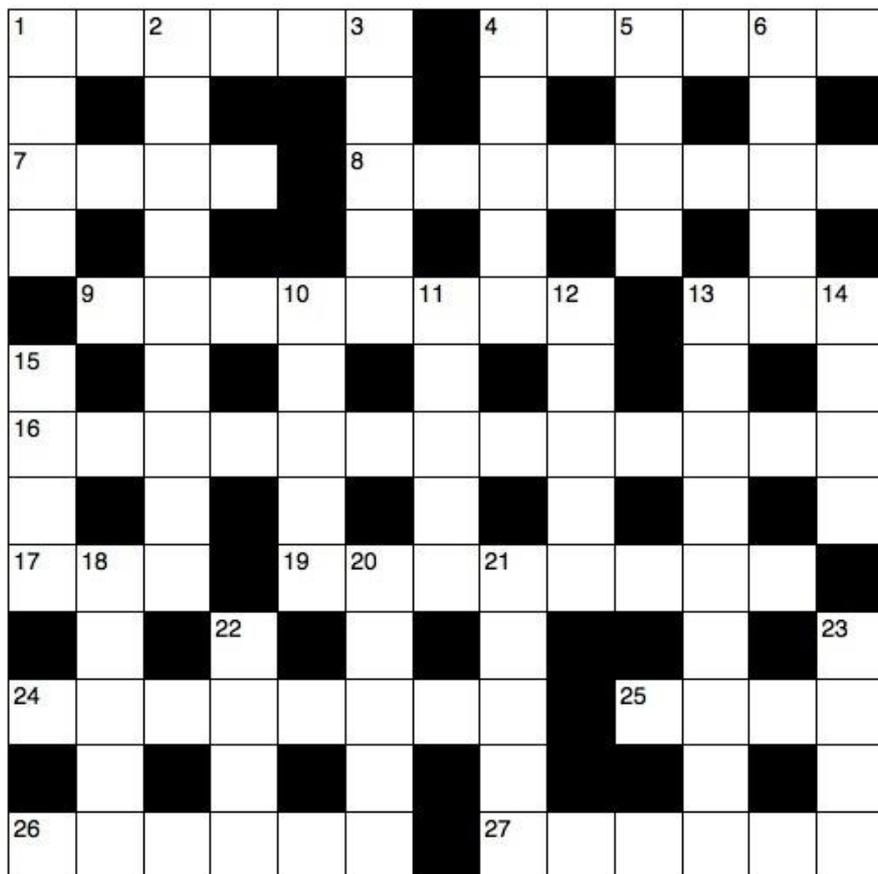
20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)

22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Solution is on Page 23



# Prayers and Poems Page

## A Prayer at Candlemas

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops - sometimes known as Candlemas Bells - and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead.

And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance - can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month.

In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### Love

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

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

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

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

*From Prayers of the Western Highlanders*

### He Prayeth Well

He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast,  
He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.

*By Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

### God's Valentine

For God so loved the world He sent His Son  
There was no other way to let us know,  
So Jesus came to us from heaven's realm  
To bring God's love to all of us below.

He took on flesh, became like one of us,  
Taught and healed and loved wherever He went  
Showing the Father's love for all to see  
He truly was a gift from heaven sent.

The Bible is God's precious Word of Life  
A living breathing word like no other,  
It is a heavenly letter of love to us  
Sent 'From your God the Everlasting Father'.

*By Megan Carter*

## 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 - Emma Addy  
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

### Ecclesfield Community Garden

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

### Friends of Ecclesfield Library

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

### Ecclesfield Cubs

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

### Ecclesfield Beavers

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

### Ecclesfield Scouts

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

### The Grenoside Singers

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

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some  
Sundays and weekdays.  
Please make contact if you wish to play or  
learn. Secretary: Joe Webster:  
[whitleyhall@yocspl.co.uk](mailto:whitleyhall@yocspl.co.uk)  
Website:  
[www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com](http://www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com)

### Chapelton 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  
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow  
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We are now on face to face see  
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