

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March 2022

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

*Price 60p*

# First Words

Easter is late this year and we begin our Lenten journey to the Cross and the empty tomb on **Wednesday 2nd March, Ash Wednesday**. There will be a special service at **7.30pm**.

On **Sunday 6th March at 12 noon** we have baptisms in Church after the morning Eucharist.

On **Monday 7th March** the **PCC** will meet at **7.30pm** in Church.

The **Lent Course** will be held on **Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm** starting on Wednesday 9th March.

On **Saturday 12th March at 9am** we will be re-starting the monthly **Prayer Breakfasts**. If you have never been before do come along.

On the second Sunday of March, instead of our monthly All Age Celebration there will be Parish Communion at 10am.

**Wednesday 16th March at 3pm Soul Sanctuary** - Meditation and Contemplative Prayer for beginners - all welcome. At 7.30pm we continue the Lent Course.

**Saturday 19th March 10am to 12 noon Mothers' Union Coffee Morning.**

**Wednesday 23rd March 2pm Finance Committee Meeting** and at **7.30pm Lent Group**.

**Thursday 24th March 1.15pm Ecclesfield Primary School will visit Church.**

**Saturday 26th March 12.30pm Chapeltown Wedding.**

**Sunday 27th March, Mothers' Day - 10am All Age Celebration** and **6.30pm Eucharist**.

**Wednesday 30th March 7.30pm Lent Group.**

**Thursday 31st March from 1.15pm Ecclesfield Primary School Easter Service** - in Church and via Zoom.

God bless,

Tim



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

**Front Cover – Lent Palm and Cross**

**Back Cover – Subdural Haematoma Poster**

# Andrew Jones

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# Prayer for the Month

*Kyrie Eleison;  
Christe Eleison;  
Kyrie Eleison.*

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

This is our prayer every Lent. Lent is a reminder of our frailty, both physical frailty - the ashes imposed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality. It is also a reminder of our moral frailty and failings. In Lent we ask God to show us our sins - our failure to love, we repent, turn from sin and God meets us, not in anger and judgement, but in mercy and abundant forgiveness.

As frail and mortal creatures we come to God and ask for God's mercy and healing; for God's forgiveness, and we seek hope to live by.

The ashes are imposed on our foreheads in the shape of the Cross. For in the Cross of Christ God meets us in mercy - because of Jesus our sins are forgiven; and God meets us in hope. On the Cross God in Christ took our death to Himself and opens for us the kingdom of God.

This year though I pray 'Kyrie Eleison' also for the people of Ukraine.

As we watch these almost unbelievable events unfolding on our TV screens we feel helpless in the face of such chaos. The terrible events of the past few days remind us that this is a world in which evil is a terrible reality. We see people who are so like us whose lives are in ruins, not for any fault of their own, not for any reason other than human evil and tyranny.

And so this Lent we pray for the Ukrainian people. We pray for peace and we pray for justice. This Lent we turn to the God who meets us in Jesus. In His Cross we know that we are not abandoned to evil; and in His resurrection we find hope that every broken heart will be healed. Lent is a journey towards Easter, towards the empty tomb; the death of death and the judgement of hatred and evil.

This Lent we ask the God whose face we see in Christ to have mercy on His broken and hurting world.

God bless,  
Tim

## A Prayer for Ukraine - Archbishops Justin Welby & Stephen Cottrell

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Amen**

# Lent course at St Mary's 2022

## Lent with St Mark

**Wednesday 9th March 7.30pm**

*The beginning of the Gospel.*

*The world of Jesus and the world of St Mark - the kingdom of God is near.*

**Wednesday 16th March 7.30pm**

*Following the king - John the Baptist and the disciples.*

**Wednesday 23rd March 7.30pm**

*If you have ears to hear - The parables of the kingdom.*

**Wednesday 30th March 7.30pm**

*God-forsaken - Christ on the Cross.*

**Wednesday 6th April 7.30pm**

*He is not here - The Resurrection in Mark.*

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# God in The Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.*

## Enter my rest

At this time of the year, we are planning our gardens for the Spring and Summer ahead. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of God's work of creation, and it also tells us that God rested on the seventh day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.



This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19th century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade. Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this Spring and Summer to find relaxation and recreation. The world may carry on spinning around us, but we can stand apart, and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.

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**Editor:** Jean-François Millet (French: October 4, 1814 – January 20, 1875) was a French artist and one of the founders of the Barbizon school in rural France. Millet is noted for his paintings of peasant farmers and can be categorized as part of the Realism art movement. Toward the end of his career he became increasingly interested in painting pure landscapes. He is known best for his oil paintings but is also noted for his pastels, conte crayon drawings, and etchings.

# St James the Least of All

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

## On how to sabotage a music festival

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung al fresco in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drinks labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

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**Editor:** The counties of **Devon and Cornwall** organised a huge music festival with the reunions of both **The Jam** and **Cream**. The festival was called off due to the two counties not being able to agree which should go on first.



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## Thought for the Month

Last month I wrote about the Diocesan strategy to group parishes into Mission Areas and to nurture local “Focal Ministry” teams under the care and guidance of “Oversight Ministers.”

This month I want to say a little about how this will affect St Mary’s. We are in a Mission Area with St Mark’s Grenoside - this seems to be a natural grouping and makes sense.

As you will be aware St Mark’s does not have its own vicar or priest in charge, and it is unlikely that one will be appointed. I have been exploring with the diocese and the PCC of St Mark’s the possibility of my being appointed as the Oversight Minister for St Mark’s.

St Mark’s has a very strong lay-led ministry team, and my role will be to support and oversee the ministry at St Mark’s while remaining vicar of St Mary’s.

This will, of course take up some of my time and energy, and will mean that I have to let go of some things that I am currently involved in. One of my priorities at St Mary’s will be to strengthen the leadership here and to re-build our ministry team.

If we are appointed a Curate in the next couple of years, the Curate will be licensed to both St Mary’s and St Mark’s.

So what can everyone at St Mary’s do? Firstly pray, pray for our diocese and pray for St Mary’s and St Marks. Please pray specifically that we will find the right people with the right gifts to be part of the ministry team at St Mary’s, helping to lead worship, preach and teach, to lead us in mission and caring for one another. Pray that we will have the right leaders in place for our PCC. It is especially important that we have our full quota of four wardens at the next AGM after Easter.

As God to raise up or send us the right leaders to take forward the work of the kingdom in the next few years. There will be some changes, and there will be lots of challenges, but the future is in God’s hands which is why we pray and trust rather than worry!

PS one particularly good time and place to pray for St Mary’s will be at the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 12th March!

God bless,

Tim

**Editor** For those who wish to know more a copy of the diocesan document “A Brief Commentary on Oversight Ministry” is available on the church website at the link below

<https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/onewebmedia/Welcome/BCOM.pdf>

# What did your church learn during lockdown?

*Editor:* By the Revd Peter Crumpler

This month marks two years since the UK's first Covid lockdown. Churches closed their doors for worship as infection levels, hospital admissions and, tragically, deaths rose.

Even today, some worshippers are reluctant to return to 'in person' worship, and churches are still taking care to limit Covid risks.

What did we learn in the 24 months since the pandemic became part of our everyday lives? I have picked out four learning points:

Churches built stronger links with their local communities. Church services may have been suspended, or moved online, but many churches set up networks of support for people within their congregations and across their areas. Churches supported or set up ways of helping the most vulnerable in their communities, and many churchgoers volunteered to help local caring charities and, later, at vaccination centres.

Churches reached new people by going online. Overnight, many churches threw open their doors to people on their doorstep, and further afield. Suddenly, distance did not matter – and people were 'attending' online services at churches around the world. Worshippers with disabilities welcomed the online services – and gently asked why it had taken the wider Church so long to acknowledge their needs.

Churchgoers learnt to be grateful for all the things they had taken for granted. Suddenly, singing hymns or worship songs together, receiving communion with bread and wine, and responding to a sermon together, all became a memory from an earlier time. We realised how much we needed each other and appreciated each other's fellowship and presence. Home-based fellowship groups, now online, thrived at many churches.

Churches chose their priorities. During lockdown, many churches asked themselves, what really matters? What are our priorities now? Disputes around issues of church governance or practices were put on the back-burner and congregations focussed on providing services of worship and supporting those in need.

These are just my 'top four' suggestions – and of course they will not apply to all churches. Perhaps I have painted too rosy a picture?

Why not ask yourself, what your church learnt during lockdown – and how far those lessons could help you plan for the future?

## From the Registers

### Baptisms:

Sunday 6th February

Nancy Ann Culyer and Hattie Ruth Joy Fothergill

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

### Marriages

Saturday 12th February

David Heath and Jade Walters

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

### Funerals

Monday 7th February

Richard Anthony Leach

Tuesday 8th February

Peter Sampson

Thursday 10th February

Anthony Cunningham and June Cunningham

Thursday 17th February

Irene Wood

Wednesday 23rd February

Leslie Worrall (Memorial Service)

Thursday 24th February

Doreen Brenda Littlewood

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

## Grenoside Singers



The Singers are well and truly back as a choir now and busily practising several items, both old and new, which we hope to perform at a concert later this year, possibly at the time of the Platinum Jubilee in the summer. We also have a wedding booked in for September, so we are also rehearsing several pieces to help celebrate the couple's special day.

It has been great to welcome several new members into our ranks recently, but we can still squeeze in a few more if you are interested in singing in a group. In common with most choirs, men in particular are in short supply so although we have a reasonable number of tenors and basses, we would encourage any budding singers out there to come along and give us a try. If you decide to join the choir you will be part of a warm and happy band of people – there are no auditions, just turn up and sing!

As mentioned above, the choir can be booked for wedding ceremonies. We can help to boost congregational numbers as well as singing pieces from our extensive wedding repertoire chosen by the couple. If you are to be married this year and you would like to book the choir to enhance your happy day then please contact us.

If you are interested in joining the choir, you would be very welcome to come along to any of our rehearsals which are held in St Mark's Church Hall on Monday evenings at 7.30pm, or contact the Secretary, Judith Gill for more information. (Details on the back page of this edition.)

# 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.

## Science and a sense of the Transcendent

*What is the difference between a cathedral and a physics lab? Are they not both saying: 'Hello'? - Annie Dillard*

Scientists often speak of a reality beyond the objects they are studying, and for some this is encountered in powerful – if rare – episodes of wonder and awe. The Christian writer J.W. Sire quotes this line from Annie Dillard in his book *Echoes of a Voice*, which explores spiritual or 'transcendent' experiences.

In his analysis of these experiences Sire describes moments that are “emotional, intellectual, highly charged, usually sudden, unannounced, often odd, some weird, others glorious”, and places them on three different levels:

A material object that points beyond the material reality. For example, someone might develop a sense of what is good and evil, based on the actions of others.

Experience of “something personal...just behind the surface of what we are directly experiencing, often something with which one feels at peace or even at one, or, perhaps, as dangerous or threatening.”

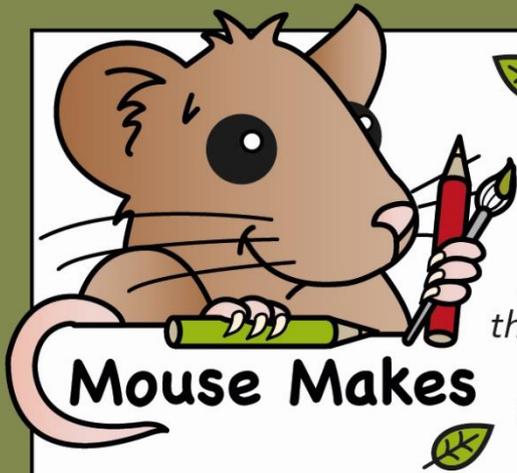
A felt presence that has a specific character or presence, e.g., holiness, or inspiring humility, fearful awe or wonder.

According to Sire, level 1-2 experiences are fairly common but level 3 is rare. He gives a wide range of examples, including scientists. Some of these people are religious or interested in spirituality, others are atheists. Some of their moments of transcendence carried a particular meaning, others simply sparked curiosity.

The famous geneticist Francis Collins described several significant moments when he was young: “being transported by the experience of looking through a telescope”, or “a Christmas Eve where the descant on a particularly beautiful Christmas carol...left me with a sense of unexpected awe and a longing for something I could not name”.

These experiences meant that when Collins was faced with the question of belief in God, “all [his] arguments seemed very thin”. Now, as a fully-fledged scientist and a believer in God, he is able to say that “for a scientist who occasionally is given the remarkable privilege of discovering something not previously known by man, there is a special kind of joy associated with such flashes of insight.”

Most of us are not scientists, but we may well have had experiences like this in different contexts. How can we, in our engagement with scientifically minded individuals, make connections through our shared experience of the transcendent? Can we listen as well as explain, finding some common points of connection?



# Mouse Makes

## GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

*"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."*

*...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."*

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ  
Luke  
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up  
Luke 6:31



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

\_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who asks you  
Luke 6:30

\_\_\_\_\_ to those that hate you  
Luke 6:27

\_\_\_\_\_ for those who are cruel to you  
Luke 6:28

\_\_\_\_\_ those who curse you  
Luke 6:28

\_\_\_\_\_ and you will be forgiven  
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED  
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

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# Editor's Humour

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

OMG I just found out that [Albert Einstein](#) was a real person!! All this time I just thought he was a theoretical physicist...

Thought I'd be trendy and try one of these 'alternative milks' – I don't know what a [magnesia](#) is, but it made my cornflakes taste horrible.

When I'm bored I call Best Western Hotels and when they answer .... "Best Western" – I shout "[True Grit with John Wayne](#)" then I hang up.

Two ladies talking in the office on a Friday afternoon "Any plans for the weekend?" – "Yes [Triathlon](#)" – "Wow. Swim, cycle, run?" – "No. Book, bath, nap."



## UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS

PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE – I hit it and it started working

CYCLE POWER TO THE PANEL – Turn it off and on again

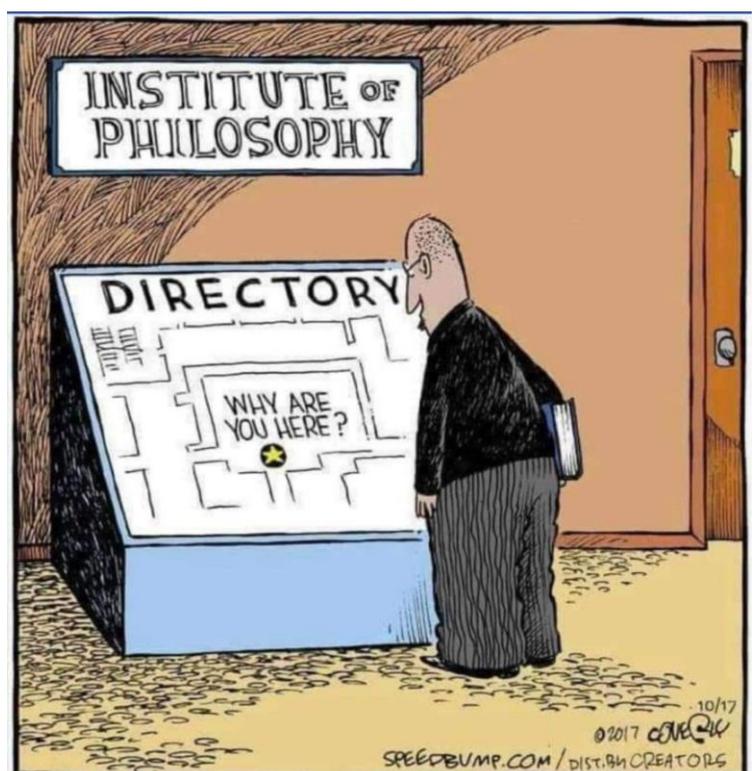
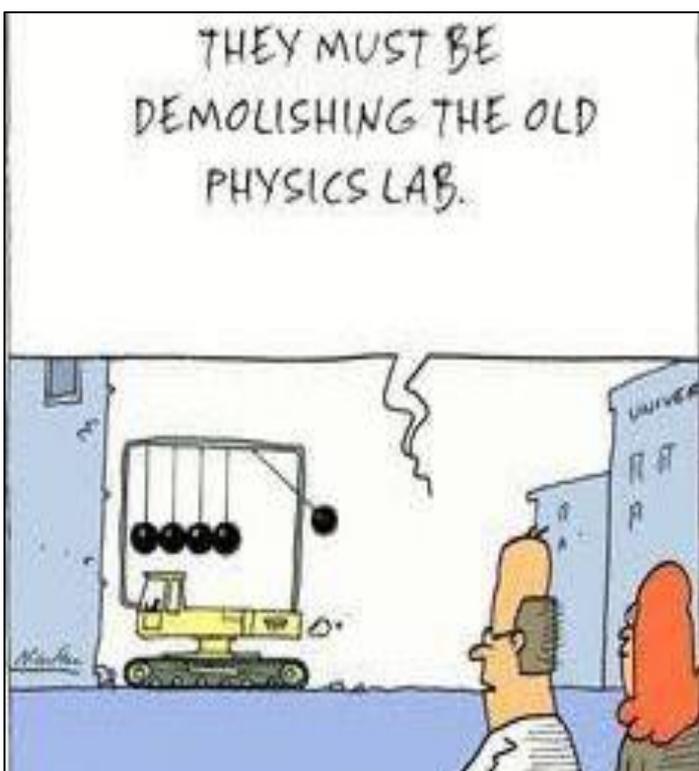
HIGH IMPEDANCE AIR GAP – I forgot to plug it in

ORGANIC GROUNDING – I got electrocuted

THERMALLY RECONFIGURED – It melted

KINETIC DISASSEMBLY – It blew up

THERMAL SHOCK – It burned



# Saints of the month - 30th March: John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? [John Climacus](#) (d 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q); during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote *The Ladder to Paradise*, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.

## 31st March: John Donne, the metaphysical poet

[John Donne \(1572 – 1631\)](#) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, secretary and finally Dean of St Pauls Cathedral in London. But he is most remembered for his poetry, for he is seen as the greatest of the 17th-century 'metaphysical' poets.

Donne was born in 1572 into a Roman Catholic family in London at a time when the Church of England was the dominant faith, and those who remained Roman Catholic were considered second class citizens. Although Donne studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, because of his Roman Catholicism, he was denied a degree. So, in 1592 Donne went to London to study law at Lincoln's Inn.

In 1594 Donne decided to convert to the Church of England, and this opened up a whole new life for him. In 1596 he joined the naval expedition led by the Earl of Essex against Cadiz in Spain. When he returned in 1598, he was appointed private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal. All was going well, but then he fell in love with Egerton's 16-year-old niece, Anne More, and in 1601 he secretly married her. Egerton was furious, and Donne lost his job, and even ended up in prison for a short time.

For several years after that Donne worked as a lawyer. Then in 1610 he wrote a book encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the king. The book caught the eye of James 1, who may have suggested that Donne go into the Church. Certainly, Donne was appointed as a royal chaplain only a few months after his ordination in 1615. In 1617 Donne's beloved wife, Anne, died. In 1621 he was appointed the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and proved to be a much loved and inspiring preacher.

Throughout his working life, Donne continued to write poetry, though most of it remained unpublished until 1633. It was then mostly forgotten after his death, until early last century. Then, in the 1920s, both Ezra Pound and TS Eliot openly acknowledged their literary debt to him.

Donne's place as one of the greatest of the 17th-century 'metaphysical' poets is now assured. He wrote both sacred and secular poetry, with his main theme being that of human love and divine love.

# The Archbishop of Canterbury speaks on vaccines

The Archbishop of Canterbury has shared his doubts about mandatory vaccines, while urging people to get vaccinated "to look after their neighbours".

"I'm not personally in favour of compulsory vaccination by law," the Most Revd Justin Welby recently told BBC's Today programme. "But I am very much in favour of encouraging people, of incentivising people to get vaccinated."

The leader of the Church of England made the remarks as he was asked what society's attitude should be towards individuals who have decided not to get vaccinated against Covid. He said: "Condemning people doesn't do much good, far from anything else. But also, it increases the general sense of anger that comes at a time of insecurity and fear and grief. I think we need to be encouraging people to look after their neighbours." It is understood almost 80 per cent of UK adults are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

# The Children's Society

The Children's Society had a very success year in 2021 raising £1,939.00p. This was up on the year before by £200.00p.

Our Christingle also did well with £358.00p. collected through the December service, which was magical with 33 children and 70 adults. and after the new year collecting Candles are still coming in.

If your Box is opened in the spring could you let me know and I will collect it, or bring it to Church. Thank you for all your help and care. Pat Blackburn.



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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

## Mothers' Union

Isn't it good to be back seeing friends again. The Mothers' Union began 2022 with the AGM in January. In February we had a talk from Angela Parker who provides holidays for families who have never been away together. We offer a week at the Haven caravan park in Mablethorpe or Cleethorpes. The families have to be sponsored by a reliable person (at no cost to them) and after they have filled in a form with names and ages and a short recommendation the majority are then offered a holiday at a time they choose. A hamper of food is supplied to take with them but they have to arrange their own transport. As a group we were told that all the money for the holidays has to be raised by the members in the diocese.

Often letters of thanks are sent to the organiser Angela saying how much they have enjoyed their time away. We hope to raise money in the branch in September where instead of a 'Beetle Drive' we shall have a 'Caravan Drive' played in the same way as beetle. We hope you will support this effort so that another family can have that joy.

Our next meeting in March sees a return of a speaker from MAP an aeroplane organisation which arranges flight in parts of the world where travelling by road is almost impossible. Recently Lucy King (nee James) used it during her sponsored time in Hospitals in Africa.

# Make A Mothers' Day



## Coffee Morning 2022

### Helping Women out of Poverty

**Saturday 19 March**

**10.00am to 12.00pm**

Bring & Buy Stall - Cake Stall

Raffle



# Observing Lent

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the spiritual disciplines

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast.'* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life. It shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender *'my idols'* to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

*'Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.'* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

## Quotes

*Editor: With Lent in mind, we offer quotes that focus on contemplation, prayer, and self-assessment.*

The need of the world is to listen to God. - *Albert Einstein*

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else. - *G D Stewart*

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less. - *C E Jefferson*

The Bible has a great deal to say about suffering and most of it is encouraging. - *A W Tozer*

The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. - *L Ravenhill*

We talk about heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*

The peace of the soul consists in an absolute resignation to the will of God. - *Francois Fenelon*

# The Gardening Year – March

**Plant Care** Regular watering, feeding, and treating plants can soon add up. by the time you've paid your watering bill, bought fertilizers, and invested in certain pesticides or desired treatments, you can be forgiven for thinking gardening is an expensive hobby. However, these are several ways to reduce the amount of money you spend on plant care and what's more they benefit the environment too. Making gardening a green hobby.

**Watering** We have to pay to get water into our homes through the taps, but it falls freely out of the sky in most countries. One way to reduce your dependency on tap water is to store rainwater, you can buy rain barrels in all sorts of sizes to fit even the smallest plot. All you need is a down pipe to direct into a water barrel and a tap to get it out with some plants prefer rainwater so you won't be able to grow them unless you capture rainwater effectively.

**Irrigation** if you want a self-watering garden or fancy irrigation system there are plenty of ways to do this without costing much at all .You can either make yourself a self-watering container or set up a system with old plastic bottles ,using old plastic bottles is the cheapest way to get water to the roots of plants such as Tomatoes, Peppers and Aubergines. If you want to make watering less than a chore, try the plastic bottle method of watering and see if it helps you.

1 - wash an old plastic cut the bottle.

2 - put the cap on and drill 2 small holes in the cap.

3 - cut a third off the bottle.

4 - insert the bottle at 45 degrees angle next to the plant you want to water, being careful not to damage the root of the established plant.

5 - fill the bottle with water and it will deliver a trickle of water to the root of your plant.

**Fertilizer** you will be aware that container grown crops need care and feeding from you than those in open soil .Regular feeding especially during a busy growing season can soon leave you out of pocket .Fortunately nature provides plant food and its pretty too .Comfrey is every gardener's best friend .It's virtually impossible to kill, it attracts bees to your garden which helps pollinate crops and it can be made into an excellent fertilizer.

**Comfrey Fertilizer** making comfrey fertilizer is not the most sociable of activities as it really stinks; but it is worth doing to save money and help the environment. All you need to do is steep comfrey leaves in a bucket of rainwater, cover and leave for a few weeks. before straining and adding new leaves to the water, strain it again and bottle. Dilute this fertilizer 20 times with water. bottle and use on your crops.

**Colin Williams**

# Eat the Seasons – March

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

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

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

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

# Remembering Aretha Franklin

Editor: by Tim Lenton

Eighty years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1942, [Aretha Franklin](#), the Queen of Soul, was born. The American soul, R&B, pop & gospel singer was known for her many hit songs including 'Respect' and '[I Say a Little Prayer](#)'. She died in 2018.



Aretha began her career as a young child, singing gospel songs at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C L Franklin was a minister. His emotional sermons led to him being known as 'the million-dollar voice', and he earned money preaching in churches across the country, making him something of a celebrity.

That led to his becoming friends with such luminaries as Martin Luther King, Sam Cooke, and Clara Ward – a singer who acted as a role model to Aretha, who then achieved widespread commercial success after she signed for Atlantic Records in 1966.

Her successes as a singer are too many to document fully, but she won 18 Grammy Awards, and was the first female artist to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

She was also inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005 and into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2010, *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked her top of its list of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time. A year after her death the Pulitzer Prize jury awarded her a posthumous special citation "for her indelible contribution to American music and culture for more than five decades".

Life was not always easy for her. A fear of flying stopped her travelling overseas after 1984, and she performed only in North America after that.

Aretha was a Christian who believed in supernatural healing and regarded her singing abilities as a gift from God. "My faith always has been and always will be important to me,"

---

## Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

A	W	A	K	E	N		Q	U	E	N	C	H	
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# ERIC EYRE

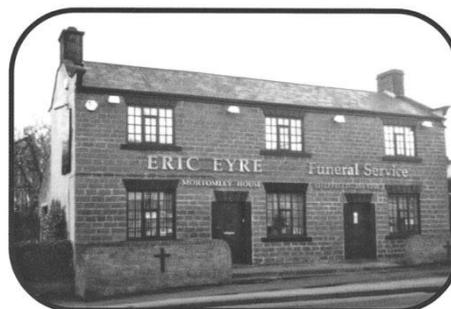
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# It is time to eat Mussels

A thalassic design classic: turmeric-coloured morsels stunningly presented in raven shells. But they don't just look good. There's the wonderful percussive rhythm of mussels being gently shaken in the pan and poured into a large bowl. With head over the bowl you breathe in the tantalizing sea-fresh steam. Savour it. And then get to the task at hand; extracting succulent offerings from gaping shells and soaking up the fragrant broth with pieces of crusty-soft bread. The complete sensory food experience.

Archaeological findings suggest that mussels have been used as a food for over 20,000 years. They have been cultivated in Europe since 1235 when Patrick Walton, an Irish sailor shipwrecked on the French coast, hung up nets in order to catch fish and found that mussels were sticking themselves to the poles supporting the nets. Mussels are bivalves (molluscs with two hinged shells). They filter iron from seawater to produce the adhesive plaque (beard) they use to attach themselves to rocks and other objects. The type of mussels prevalent in UK waters have spread throughout the northern hemisphere by hitching lifts on the hulls of boats.

Look for bright, clean, tightly closed unbroken shells. Fresh mussels smell briny-fresh, not 'fishy'. They are best eaten within a day of buying. When you get them home from the market or fishmonger, place them in an uncovered dish in the fridge until you are ready to prepare them. This will allow them to breathe and stay fresh.

Mussels are a good source of selenium (stimulates metabolism and immune system and protects cells from free radical damage), vitamin B12, zinc, folic acid, iron, calcium and omega 3 polyunsaturates.

## Classic Moules Marinieres

### Ingredients

1kg mussels, in shells  
Glass white wine  
Tablespoon of good olive oil or butter  
1 Large shallot, finely chopped  
Chopped parsley, to serve  
French baguette to tear and share (butter optional)



### Method

1. Tip the mussels into the sink or a large bowl of cold water. Swish them around with your hands to wash them thoroughly. If any mussels are open, tap them sharply against the side of the sink, worktop or with a knife. If they don't close, discard them – they are dead and not edible and discard any mussels with broken shells.
2. Use a small knife to scrape off any barnacles attached to the shells. Pull off the beards using the knife to help you – they just need a good tug. The beard is the brown wispy bit hanging out of the join in the shells. Not all mussels will have beards, don't worry if you can't remove it all. Rinse the mussels again in fresh cold water to remove any bits of shell or barnacle, and drain in a colander.
3. Add the olive oil (or butter) and the shallot to a large pan, sweat down gently for 4-5 minutes then add the wine, season with black pepper. Turn up the heat and tip the mussels into the pan, the pan should not be more than half full – the mussels need plenty of space to move around so that they cook thoroughly.
4. Cover the pan tightly with a lid. When the pan starts to steam, cook the mussels for 3-4 mins, shaking the pan from time to time to ensure they cook evenly. They are cooked when the shells have opened. Remove the pan from the heat to stop the mussels cooking any further. Sprinkle with chopped parsley, then spoon them into warmed bowls and pour over the pan juices.

Mussels that have not opened are fine to eat if they can be easily opened.

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## Chapeltown & District Probus Club



In February, we welcomed Paul Adey, who gave an illustrated talk on the History of the British Motor Car Industry.

In a fascinating talk, Paul went from the beginning of the invention of motorised road transport through to the decline and fall of British Leyland and most British motor car companies. His main focus was on all the brands that became BMC and British Leyland and the pioneers whose names adorned the brands such as Morris, Austin, Wolseley, Riley and many others. For anyone interested in cars, this was a nostalgic journey through many of the vehicles some of us had actually

owned. This was part one as there is a second talk about the other brands, many of which ended up in the Rootes Group as well as separate talks about European cars and also American cars.

Around 21 members went on the Wortley Hall where a good lunch was enjoyed.

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). The membership year starts with the AGM in March.

Upcoming meetings at 10.00 in Grenoside Community Centre (followed by lunch at Wortley Hall):-

9th March – Annual Meeting followed by Nick Tovey – “Suiseki part 2”

13th April – Stephen Gay “The Lost Railway from Penistone to Sheffield”

11th May – Ian Webb “Alaskan Trail”

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

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

**Andrew Robinson**

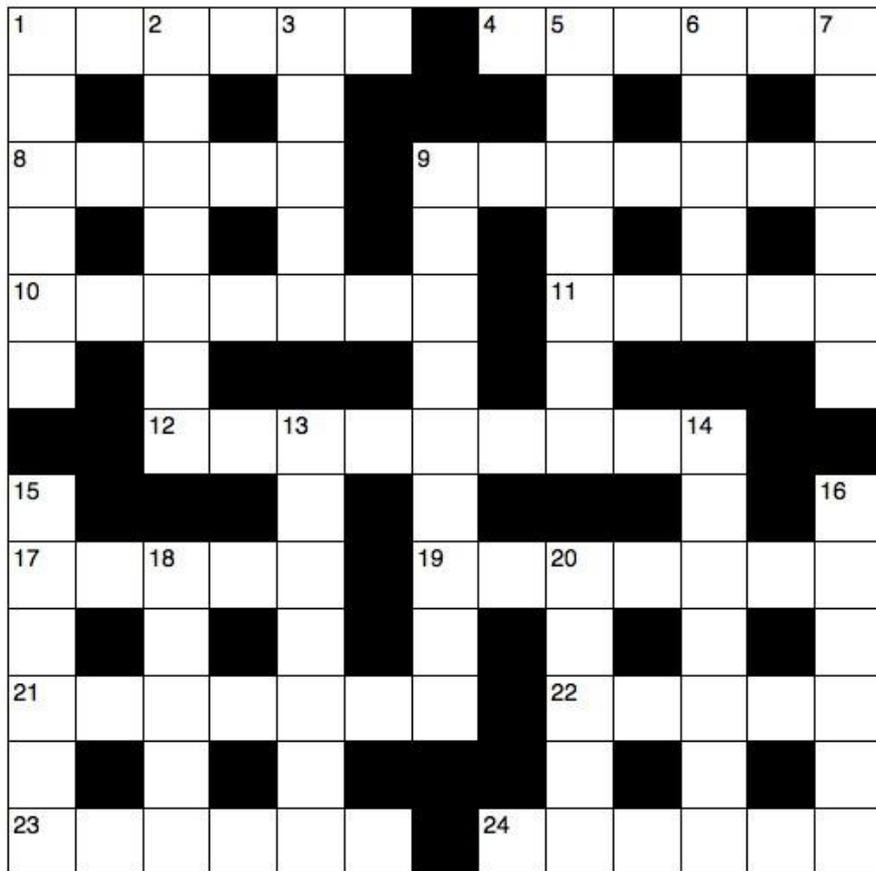
# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

## Clues Down

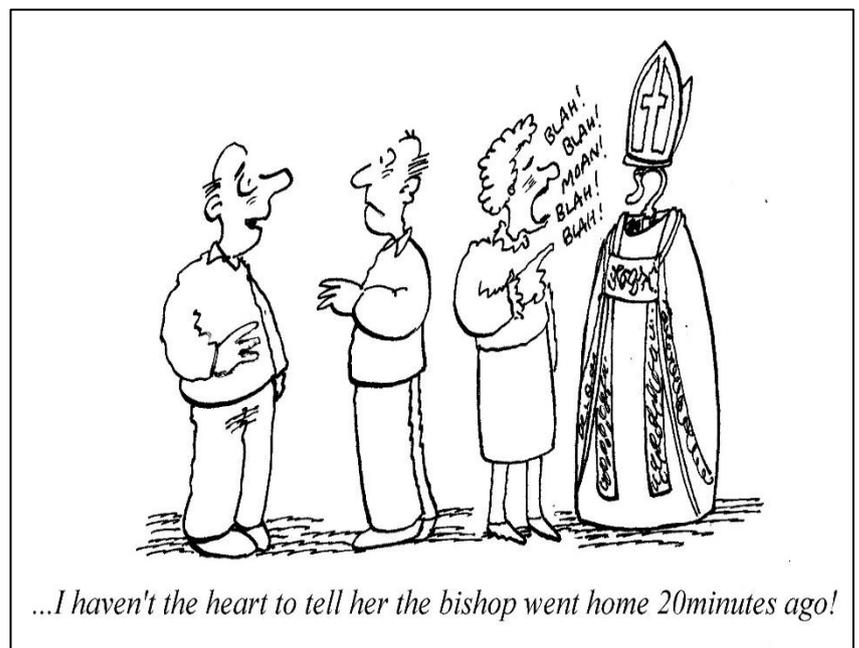
- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



## Bored with retirement?

People who retired early (before the age of 66) are going back to work. A study has found that the reason is because they miss having a sense of daily purpose in their lives, or they miss the companionship of work colleagues.

A recent study by Aviva found that people who want to retire early do so primarily because they want to have more freedom while still being fit enough to enjoy it. But sometimes, it seems, retirement is not as much fun as they had expected it to be.



# Prayers and Poems Page

## When the angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

(Annunciation, 25 March)

Almighty, loving Father,

Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

*By Daphne Kitching*

---

*Editor: Rabbula of Edessa was a leading figure in the Syrian Church who translated the New Testament into his native tongue. He wrote this prayer for penitents to use.*

### Have Pity on Me

You are rich, Lord, in grace and mercy, willing to cleanse all sinners from their guilt. Cleanse me with hyssop, have pity on me. In Your mercy spare me, as you spared the publican and the prodigal son. You take the sinfulness from sinners, O Christ, and when we repent You make us welcome beside You. Redeemer of the human race, in Your mercy, have pity on me.

My sins have bowed me to the ground... I could not have done more to achieve my own ruin if I had rushed over a precipice. Who but You can restore me to the beauty in which you created me? Who but You can remake me in the image of yourself? In Your mercy, Lord, deliver me; have pity on me...

What will become of me, Lord? How will I explain myself when I must confess that there is nothing to show for the talents You bestowed on me. Have pity... Grant me the dew of Your grace, Lord. Forgive my sins. But above all, may the glory belong to You.

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

### Grace of Love

The God of life to encompass thee,  
Loving Christ encompass lovingly,  
The Holy Ghost encompasser be  
Cherishing, aid, enfolding to send  
To defend.

The Three be about thy head to stand,  
And the Three be about thy breast,  
The Three about thy body at hand  
For each day, for each night of rest,  
The Trinity compassing strong  
Thy life long.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*

### The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring  
The day is equal to the night;  
Summer's song we soon shall sing!  
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago  
Mornings spiked by bitter frost  
But we shall bask in summer glow  
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring  
And for all the seasons, too,  
Of life's rhythms we shall sing  
Giving all the praise to You.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## 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@ycspl.co.uk](mailto:whitleyhall@ycspl.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  
[chapelton.probus@gmail.com](mailto:chapelton.probus@gmail.com)  
We are now on face to face see  
[www.chapelton-probus.org.uk](http://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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# Subdural

The Kings Arms Salford  
10th & 11th March 2022  
The Montgomery Sheffield

16th BSL Interpreted  
17th Q&A March 2022

Created & Performed by:

**Eleanor May Blackburn**

Directed by:

**Jack Victor Price**

"A brave  
piece tackled  
with gusto"

"Candid  
and  
upfront"

"A rollercoaster  
of genuine  
emotions"

"A  
sincere  
tribute"

North  
West  
End:  
★★★★



Eleanor May Blackburn is appearing at

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In

**"Subdural Haematoma"**

On 16th and 17th March 2022. at 7.30pm

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