

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine February

stmarysecclesfield.org.uk

Price 60p

First Words

Happy New Year to you!

After a very busy Christmas things are settling back to 'normal' at St Mary's.

On **Saturday 1st February** we have **Wedding Preparation** in Church for couples getting married in 2025. The session begins at **10am**.

On **Sunday 2nd February** at our **10am** Eucharist we celebrate the festival of **Candlemas** (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple). At **12noon** we have **Baptisms**.

The **Fabric Team** meet on **Monday 3rd February at 2pm** and the **Saints Alive** course continues on **Mondays in February at 4pm**.
In the evening of **3rd February** the **Marriage Preparation session** is repeated at **7.30pm** for those unable to make the Saturday.

Tuesday 4th February, Funeral in Church followed by burial in the Cemetery opposite.

On **Wednesday 5th February** we meet in Church at **2pm** to plan **hymns and services** for March and April.

The **mid-week Eucharist is on Thursday 6th February** (and every Thursday morning) at **9.30am**; later there will be a **funeral** at the Crematorium at **3pm**.

On **Saturday 8th February** there is the monthly Prayer Breakfast at **9am** and **Bereavement Cafe** is at **10.30am**.

On **Sunday 9th February at 5pm** there is a **Wedding Rehearsal** in Church before the evening service.

On **Thursday 20th February**, after the mid-week Communion there will be a short service at **Nightingale Nursing Home**.

God bless,
Tim.

The **Saints Alive Course** is continuing on Mondays at 4pm in Church.
I will be running the course again later in the year,
anyone interested in taking part please speak to Tim.

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Front Cover – Snowdrops From the web visit <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/plants-and-fungi/snowdrop/>

Back Cover – Architectural Illustration © Allan T Adams BA FSA FSAI

Kate Guest

Counselling & Psychotherapy

Counselling is a talking therapy where you can discuss your problems and emotions in a safe, confidential space.

Counselling can help improve your mental health, teach you better ways to handle stress and anxiety, and increase your self-awareness and emotional resilience.

Maybe you are suffering a sudden life crisis such as bereavement, job loss, or lack of direction, or that you feel that life is just getting on top of you, and you need someone to help with your thoughts and feelings.

Areas of counselling I deal with include abuse, anxiety, anger management, bereavement and loss, career support, work related stress, depression, low confidence and low self-esteem, loneliness, relationship problems, family problems, sex and sexuality and personal issues.

Counselling is not about judging; it is about giving someone the freedom to examine their own issues and so empower them to find their own resolution. Counselling can be a powerful way of examining ourselves and so bring about change within our lives.

I work with individuals and also provide couples and relationship counselling.

Contact me via email or telephone to book an appointment.

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Prayer for the Month

**Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

This prayer, which we use during the season of Epiphany, is one of my favourite prayers at the beginning of a new year. In the long, bleak days of winter it is a prayer of hope, and in January and February, I need a boost of hope!

It is based on the teaching of Saint Paul that in Christ all things will be reconciled to God and made whole and new (see Paul's letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians).

This prayer reminds me of the fullness of Christian hope - not for escape from the world, but for the renewal of God's good, though fallen and broken creation.

The prayer also holds for me the hope that in Christ I too will be renewed, healed and made whole. It picks up on the understanding of the early Church, one that is the focus of our Christmas celebrations, that in Christ God became human so that humans might become divine.

The prayer also reminds us that the renewal of all things in Christ does not come as a result of the Church's striving or of our human efforts; it is the work of God's rich grace. We are invited and called to work with God, but at the heart of our hope is the grace, the unearned and undeserved grace of God in Christ. The fulness of our hope as Christians, for ourselves and for all of God's creation, is the goodness and gift of God in Christ.

May you find hope to sustain you in these winter days.
God bless,

Tim.

Sing & Share

We are planning to start a new group on Sunday mornings for small children called 'Sing and Share.' The group will run during the middle of the 10am Sunday Service on the first and third Sundays.

We need at least four people to help with the group, and in pairs each person will be called on to lead the group once a month (if we have more than four volunteers each person will be on for less than once a month).

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God in The Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art.

Image - John Everett Millais, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.



Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month's painting, My First Sermon by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced My Second Sermon – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in Cherry Ripe and Bubbles. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of 'the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.'

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us 'out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.'

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Everett_Millais

Sir John Everett Millais was an English painter and illustrator who was one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. He was a child prodigy who, aged eleven, became the youngest student to enter the Royal Academy Schools. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was founded at his family home in London, at 83 Gower Street (now number 7). Millais became the most famous exponent of the style, his painting Christ in the House of His Parents (1849–50) generating considerable controversy, and he produced a picture that could serve as the embodiment of the historical and naturalist focus of the group, Ophelia, in 1851–52.

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



I write with the snow on the ground finally clearing after 2 weeks, in fact the 2nd significant fall in 2 months following the previous one in November '24. While any work on the ground is held up, preparation for the 2025 season is ongoing. Winter nets have started and other preparations are being made for the year in which we will be celebrating our centenary since moving from the ground at the top of Whitley Lane, Grenoside, to Ecclesfield. There will be a new scoreboard installed plus a revised position for the scorers, some special events including celebrity matches at Cinder Hill Lane and a major Celebration Dinner on 27th September at the OEC where David Gower will be the guest speaker.

More details and fixtures to be available in April.

If you are interested in playing cricket or learning to play cricket, sponsoring the team or a player or becoming a patron or social member, please get in touch.

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whitleyhall.play-cricket.com/home

Andrew Robinson



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Reflecting Faith: Church Buildings

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers the stones and mortar...

We have been thinking about different aspects of church buildings. But what about ‘the whole thing’? - the impression you have when you first see a church building?

Most of us have visited many church buildings, either to worship or as a tourist: to enjoy the splendour, the colours, the style and the architecture, with or without necessarily a time of prayer or worship.

There are some amazingly staggering designs around the world – one only has to think of the complex and intricate stone carving of Gaudi’s catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain (due to be completed next year!) and then compare that to the sleekness of the Lutheran (Church of Iceland) parish church in Reykjavík, Iceland.

How about the grandeur of St Peter’s in Rome, full of baroque gold and rich colours? Or what about St Basil’s Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow – now a museum but topped with amazingly coloured onion domes?

Just looking at the outside of a building tells you a lot about what it is likely to be like inside, the purpose of the building and the style of worship to expect there.

It’s not just about the condition of the fabric, or the tidiness of the grounds but rather the architecture itself.

When we see a contemporary modern building, we will expect the worship to match it: whether that is Protestant, Catholic or any other denomination.

This month

If you were designing a brand-new church building today, what would you put into it and therefore what would the exterior look like? What would you want on the outside, to express your faith? Would you include any specific Christian symbols, or be more all-encompassing?

Flower Rota

If anyone can spare the time to fill a vacant week on the 2025 flower Rota, I would be very grateful. There are fifteen vacant weeks throughout the year and would appreciate any help to fill them.

Many thanks. Christine.



St James the Least of All

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

On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Humour

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed.

After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."

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Prayers of the Bible: Praying in your Discouragements

By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly principal of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

'Moses said to the Lord, "...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me..."
Numbers 11:10-15.

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people's complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord's anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so many?' 'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind.



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What's the Big Idea? - Books of the New Testament: Job

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series which will run for the next year.

'Why does God allow suffering?' This is a frequently asked question of Christians, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful and it is explored in the book of Job. This book is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a result of Satan's challenge to God, testing whether Job's devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends assume that God is almighty and just, and that no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job's suffering, remembering his morally upright character.

Finally, all are silenced by God, as He speaks Himself (chs 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God's power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but then goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. This puts suffering in a right perspective. Job is not condemned, and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.

The importance of this book is that it realistically addresses the painful questions of life, without offering simplistic answers. It focuses on *how* we should respond to suffering, rather than on *why* God allows suffering: '*Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.*' (1:21)

National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.



This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>

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 50 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.

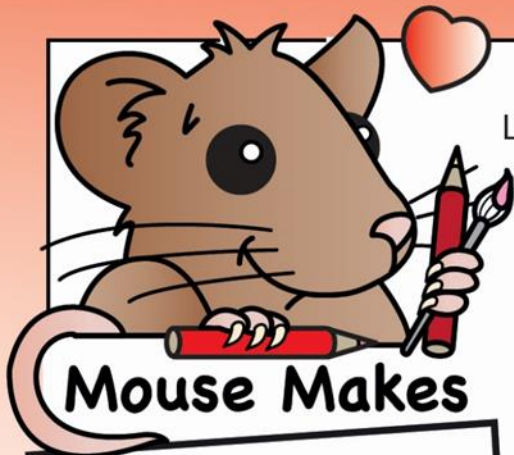
Every time I lead activities like these, I find that grown-ups are grateful for the opportunity to have a go at science themselves. I love helping church-based groups, in particular, to reconnect with science and celebrate what they find. Science is not just for children and professionals – it is for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

Father

My family was at the dinner table when my five-year-old daughter startled us all by announcing to my three-year-old son: "Dad is not your real father."

My son retorted: "Yes, he is!"

"No, he's not," she insisted. "God is your heavenly father." Then pointing to my husband, she added: "That's only our homely father!"



Mouse Makes

"Love is

_____.
love is _____.
 It does not, _____.
 it does not _____.
 it is not _____.
 it does not _____.

_____ others, it is not self -

_____ it is not easily

_____ it keeps no record of

Love delights in

_____ it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;

His _____ never come to an end; they are new every _____.

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____ and how _____ and how _____ that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

whoever _____ in **love** _____ in God, and God _____ in them.

1 John 4:16



Give _____ to the Lord, for He is

_____ his steadfast **love** endures

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD **LOVE** ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.
 1 John 4:9
God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.
 Romans 5:5
God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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- GRACIOUS • PEACE
- JUST • TRUTHFUL
- TRUSTING • LOYAL
- HOPEFUL
- PERSEVERES
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Thought for the Month

I recently read a piece by Elizabeth Oldfield, a journalist and public speaker. She speaks to groups on mental and emotional health and wellbeing. In the article she writes, "I have spent a lot of time this year telling audiences of all sizes to 'just go to church'."

Her writing struck me because as I was thinking about my first article in the new year I wanted to say the same thing.

I often take groups of schoolchildren around St Mary's, and I say to them that Church is about *connection*: connection with other people, our neighbours; connection with the past, with history; and of course connection with God.

Church is a place where you can find a place. In Church you connect with real people rather than with social media. As most Churches today have fewer than a hundred members it is a place where you can easily become a part of the family. It is a place where you will soon find you 'fit in' and a place where people miss you when you are absent.

Church, especially churches as old as St Mary's connect us to the past - to the history of our community and nation - it is a place where we find that we have roots.

Church is also a place where we connect with God, in the worship and in the silence. We enter a space where people have gathered to pray and to celebrate and to weep. And at the heart of it all we discover a presence.

Later in her article Oldfield writes, "I warn them that they will find church annoying." Churches are filled, not with spiritual superheroes but with ordinary people, you may find that the vicar's singing distracts you and some of his sermons irritate you.

The people who make up the Church, and the institution itself are very, very human, and that means fallible, broken and at times foolish. It has always been like this. Saint Paul once described the Church as a 'cracked clay pot.' Not at all elegant or stylish, but the light of Christ can and does shine through the cracks.

The very ordinary and occasionally annoying people who make up every Church are also people who have been touched in some way by God, and God's light and love can shine in and through them. And it does.

Expect to be disappointed and annoyed occasionally - Church is only human, but expect to connect. Expect also to see the treasure under the rubble, the light shining through the cracks, the glint in the darkness.

God bless you in this new year and why not think about coming or even coming back to Church.

Tim

St. Mary's Ecclesfield Vacancy Church Wardens

We are pleased to announce that we are recruiting church wardens.

If you would like to take a keener role within our church, contributing to the vital spiritual, pastoral and mission work of St. Mary's, please speak with Tim.

We are looking to recruit 4 volunteer church wardens, who besides having important legal duties, will help with the smooth running of the church.

Key activities which will be shared amongst the wardens, include.

- Representing the laity
- Cooperating with and pastorally supporting our parish Clergy
- Welcoming the congregation and ensuring the smooth running of services
- Working collaboratively with the Treasurer and Finance committee, Fabric committee and other groups
- Raising issues, concerns and highlighting good work with the Bishop
- Legal duties such as maintenance of a church inventory, collection supervision, and formal reports to the PCC and APCM meetings
- Supporting safeguarding policies and procedures

To be considered for the role you must be over 21 years of age, baptised and on the parish electoral role, not disqualified by the Charities Commission and be willing to undergo DBS checks.

The election and start date are at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27th April. For more information please speak to Tim

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 3rd November	Gray Bradley Hessey and Lottie Ann Groves
Sunday 1st December	Isabella Rose Hodgkinson
Sunday 8th December	Elliot Antoni Kavanagh

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

Marriages

Saturday 28th December	Dion Stefan Abraheart Quanborough & Emma Fiona John
------------------------	---

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

Funerals

Monday 23rd December 2024	Patricia Smith
Thursday 2nd January 2025	Graham Oxley
Tuesday 4th February	Veronica Edgar
Thursday 6th February	John Ernest Hind

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

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Help needed in the church garden

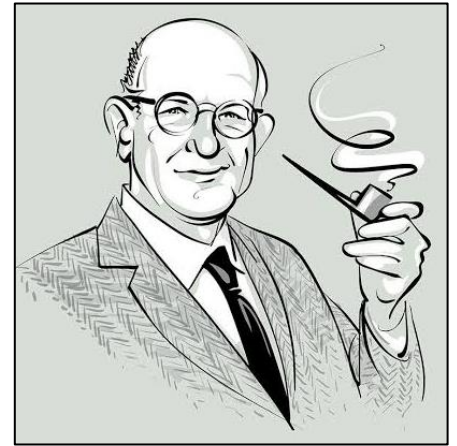
If you can, mow, weed, strim, sweep, pickup sticks, rake leaves or drive a sit on mower, we need you. If you can spare just one or two hours a week it would be a great help. Not only will the church look good, but you might even feel your spiritual and physical well-being improve and in our small way 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 of P G Wodehouse

Fifty years ago, on 14th February 1975, P G Wodehouse died. The well-loved British-born comic novelist, short story writer, lyricist and playwright who lived his later life in Long Island, USA is best known as the creator of Jeeves.

He was always a prolific writer, publishing more than 90 books, 450 plays, 200 short stories and much else between 1902 and 1974. He had an unusual first few years, being brought up by relative strangers in England while his parents lived in Hong Kong. He later went to Dulwich College, with which he formed a close attachment.



Wodehouse's genius was primarily in his writing; in person he was described as "dull," and was certainly very shy. Baptised an Anglican, he had an agnostic outlook: Evelyn Waugh once said that Christianity didn't really apply in his work because he – or his characters – had never left the Garden of Eden. He wrote sympathetically about "pious but fallible" curates, vicars and bishops, and his work revealed an unexpectedly deep knowledge of Scripture.

Born in Guildford, he moved to France for tax reasons in 1934 and was later taken prisoner by the advancing Germans in 1940. After his eventual release he made the naïve mistake of making five broadcasts on German radio to the USA, which had not yet entered the war. The broadcasts were humorous and apolitical, but they provoked some anger in Britain, to which he never returned.

Wodehouse took US citizenship in 1955, while retaining his British one. He had always loved America, and his biographers suggested that this "exile" may have benefited his writing, helping him to go on describing an idealised England, rather than the harsher reality of the post-war years.

He died in Southampton, Long Island, New York, a month after he was made a Knight in the Order of the British Empire (KBE).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P. G. Wodehouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._G._Wodehouse)

Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, one of the most widely read humourists of the 20th century. His creations include the feather-brained Bertie Wooster and his sagacious valet, Jeeves; the immaculate and loquacious Psmith; Lord Emsworth and the Blandings Castle set; the Oldest Member, with stories about golf; and Mr. Mulliner, with tall tales on subjects ranging from bibulous bishops to megalomaniac movie moguls.

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The Gardening Year – February

February is a quiet month for gardening, but it is a good time to prepare the ground and select your seeds for the coming season.

A summary of the months' work,

Dahlias, examine stored tubas. if they are shrivelling plunge them in tepid water for the night, dry and replace them in peat compost or newspaper. Cut off any parts of the tubas that show signs of rotting and dust the cuts with flowers of sulphur.

Chrysanthemums keep the beds clear of weeds, groundsel, chickweed and docks are particularly dangerous, as they are host plants for chrysanthemum gall worm.

Scatter slug pellets around plants in the open ground and in frames, cover the pellets with a seed tray with a heavy stone on top.

Flowers from seed - study the seed catalogues and plan your spring program.

Soil - Providing the soil does not become too compacted likely fork over the beds which have been winter dug. Avoid bringing to the surface any soil that has not been weathered. If manure or compost has not been applied earlier, rake in or hoe in 4oz per square yard dressing of bone meal in the top 2 or 3 inches of soil.

Vegetables do not sow broad beans and early peas until March unless they can be covered with clutches.

Seed potatoes if you wish to grow early potatoes, buy the tubas as early as possible, arrange the tubas in one layer in shallow trays with the eyes upper most. Put these in a light, frost free shed or room to encourage the tubas to sprout.

Support systems growing food in containers can take more initial setting up than in an open plot. If you are growing climbing crops such as beans, you'll need sturdy support for the plants to take hold of and climb. You'll need containers that are robust enough to withstand heavy gust of wind when they have tall plants in them and supports that can stand upright in bad weather. You might consider growing more tender plants or those which you use regularly close to your back door so you can keep an eye on them. If you really want to grow runner bean in pots there are varieties that only grow 3 foot tall so keep a look out for them in the garden centre

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – February

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

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

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

Yorkshire - It was (**is**) the best of shires, it was the Worcestershires – Hendo's Rules - OK?

John Lennon Airport: is facing delays due to the snow – Imagine all the people.

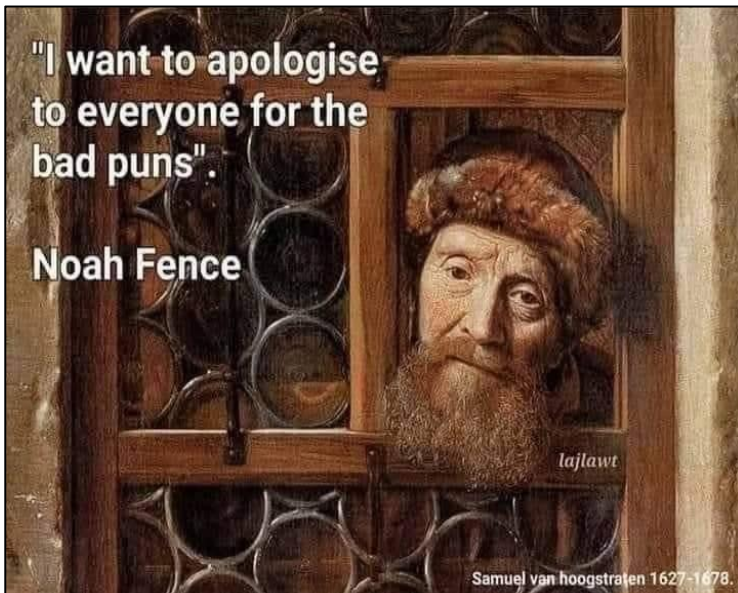
<https://youtu.be/9GMADRq00RQ>

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so they know when they are really in trouble.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out...

Sometimes you may feel like there's no one there for you, but you know who's always there for you? **Laundry** - Laundry will always be there for you.

The real Luxuries in life: time, health, a quiet mind, slow mornings, the ability to travel, rest without guilt, a good night's sleep, calm and "boring" days, meaningful conversations, home-cooked meals, people you love and people who love you back.

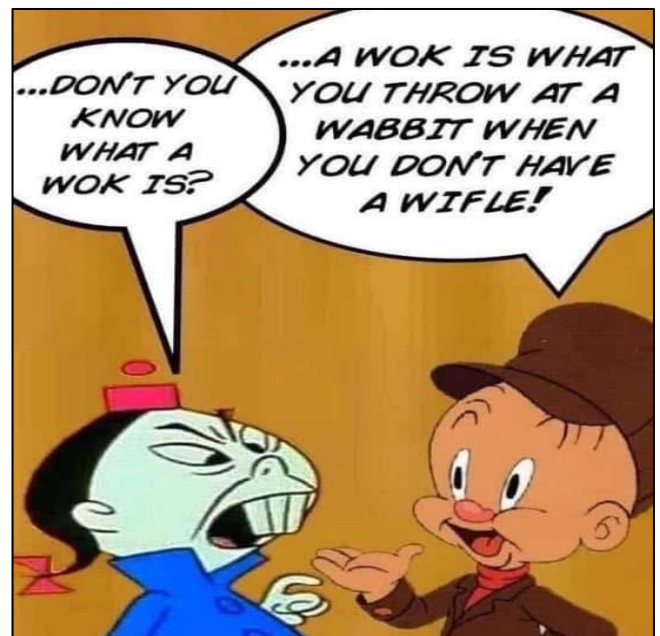


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Dirksz_van_Hoogstraten

[Charles de Batz de Castelmore D'Artagnan](#)



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_Man



ERIC EYRE

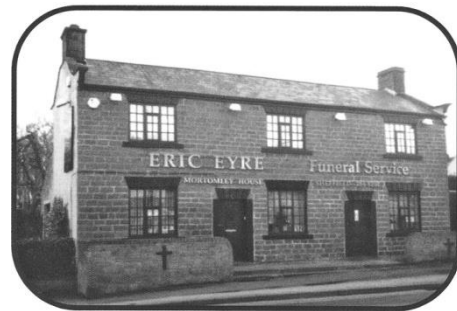
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Funeral Plans 



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



Eat (And Talk) Potatoes (Maincrop)

Nutritious, delicious and endlessly versatile, the potato is by far the most important vegetable in Europe and has been particularly warmly embraced by cooks in the UK and Ireland. How impoverished would our national cuisine be without golden roast potatoes, thick-cut chips, or creamy mash? After selecting the right potato for the job, a little attention to detail during preparation can transform the humble spud into a gastronomic experience that is hard to beat.

Potatoes were cultivated five thousand years ago in what is now Peru. They were introduced to Europe via Spain in the 1550s and arrived in the UK sometime in the 1590s. Somewhat surprisingly, potatoes weren't grown in North America until they were taken by Irish emigrants in 1719. They travelled to Australasia with Captain Cook in 1770.

When first introduced to Britain, potatoes were an exotic and expensive food with a reputation as an aphrodisiac. It was more than a century later before they became a firmly established staple food. In the 1840s the potato crop in much of Europe was wiped out by potato blight - an infection of the fungus *Phytophthora infestans*. Ireland was particularly badly hit as the crop was dominated by a single, highly susceptible, variety. In just over a decade the population of Ireland dropped by over a fifth: it is estimated that a million people died of malnutrition and a million more emigrated. This tragic episode serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining genetic diversity in agriculture.

Potato – (*Solanum tuberosum*) is a member of the nightshade family that includes tobacco, tomato, and chili peppers, and is now grown in some 130 countries in all corners of the world. Potato plants reproduce vegetatively by growing tubers from which the new plant develops, hence potatoes are clones (the offspring are genetically identical to the parent plant). It originated from and was domesticated in western South America.

Pick potatoes that are firm, with smooth undamaged skin. Avoid any that are bruised, tinged with green or sprouting. Potatoes are loosely grouped into waxy or starchy (in reality many potatoes fall somewhere between the two). Waxy potatoes hold their shape when cooked and so are good in casseroles and gratins or for serving as boiled potatoes. Starchy ones are better for mashing, baking, roasting and frying.

Starchy varieties:

Desiree. Probably the best all-rounder; can be used in almost any potato dish and has a greater depth of flavour than most.

King Edward. Recommended for baking and roasting. They are Delia's potato of choice for making gnocchi.

Maris Piper. General purpose potato, good for chips.

Kerr's Pink. Less common but makes great mash.

Waxy varieties:

Marfona. Somewhere between waxy and starchy. Lends itself to boiling and baking.

Pink Fir Apple. A tasty spud with many of the characteristics of new potatoes; use in salads.

Cara. Try in gratins.

Store - in a cool, dark, dry place in a paper bag or sack (not the fridge) and away from onions or any strongly flavoured foods.

Prep – Everyone has their own preferred techniques for preparing simple potato dishes; here are the ones that work well.

Bake - Scrub the skin, dry, prick with a fork and put straight on the oven shelf at 220°C. Cook for an hour or so, depending on size, but allow 1½ hours for a nice crisp skin. I like to use a steel skewer pushed right through the middle this helps them cook and acts as a handle.

Mash - For lighter, fluffier mash use baked potatoes rather than boiled. Scoop out the flesh, add a generous knob of butter, a splash of milk and a sprinkling of salt. Some swear that the best results are obtained by passing the potato through a ricer or mouli; a good working with hand-held masher followed by a brief but vigorous beating with a wooden spoon does the job admirably.

Roast - Peel as thinly as possible (most of a potato's flavour and nutritional content is close to the skin). Parboil for eight minutes, drain, then dry in the hot pan and shake to fluff up the edges. Roast in preheated fat (use goose fat, available in tins, to reach roast potato nirvana) at around 200°C for 40 to 50 minutes, turning occasionally.

Chips - Peel and slice potatoes to the required thickness. Soak in cold water for at least 10 minutes before draining and drying thoroughly. Deep fry at 150°C for 5 minutes, drain and raise the oil temperature to 180°C before frying again until golden. Drain, dry on paper towels, salt and serve.

If you don't have a deep fat fryer, and don't fancy deep frying in a pan, acceptable results can be obtained in the oven. Pour sunflower oil into a large roasting tray to a depth of a couple of millimetres and heat to 220°C. Add the chips (previously soaked and dried), toss gently to coat with oil and spread them out (they must be well spaced or they will not crisp). Cook until just crisp (around 20 minutes) turning a couple of times during cooking before draining in a sieve and drying on paper towels.

Be brave (rustic) – leave the skin on when you cook roast, chipped or even mash potatoes.

Nutrition - Potatoes are a good source of complex carbohydrates, vitamin C and folate. They contain the minerals copper, potassium and manganese and the skin provides dietary fibre.

A spud is a small, narrow spade that was once used for digging potatoes.

Recipes online

Potato and Feta Pancakes

<https://rawsugarhigh.wordpress.com/2010/11/13/bill-grangers-potato-and-feta-pancakes/>

Dauphinoise Potatoes

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/recipes/dauphinoise-potatoes-1866943.html>

Bubble and Squeak Rösti

<https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/type-of-dish/leftovers/bubble-and-squeak-rosti>

Aligot (Mashed Potatoes with Garlic and Cheese)

<https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/international/european/french/aligot-mashed-potatoes-with-garlic-and-cheese>

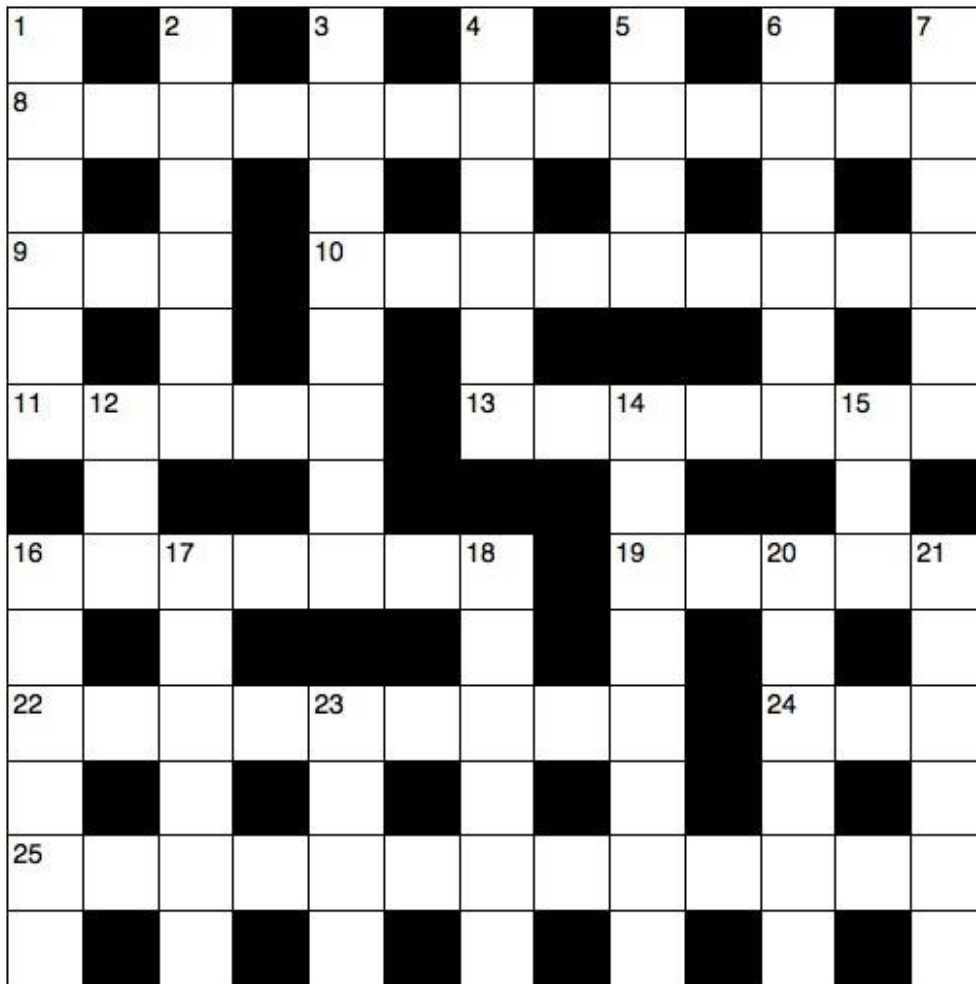
Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Clues Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



Prayer for February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Chapelton & District Probus Club



Our January meeting was cancelled due to the dangerous conditions caused by the second significant snowfall in less than 2 months following several inches in mid-November.

We are finalising the speakers for the next 12 months and also our trips. The first trip booked for 2025 is a visit to Skipton and a 3 hour canal trip with full Yorkshire Ploughman's Lunch on 13th May. There are some places available at a price of approximately £45 if anyone is interested. We also

have our Winter lunch on Tuesday 18th February at Wortley Hall and guests will be welcome, 3 Courses plus tea/coffee at £25.

Our next speaker will be Mark Dawson on 12th February who will present The History of Henderson's Relish, our famous Sheffield relish. This is the relish which replaced Worcester Sauce in the House of Commons following a campaign by Nick Clegg, then a Sheffield MP and Deputy Prime Minister.

Probus Club meets every month in the Community Centre in Grenoside. The club is about providing a relaxing social environment to welcome retired and semi-retired men including those still working but with time on their hands. You can visit a meeting as a guest or choose to become a member. Please make contact with the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

Meetings

12th February	Mark Dawson	The History of Henderson's Relish
12th March	AGM	Quiz
9th April	Paul Adey	American Motor Industry (part 1)

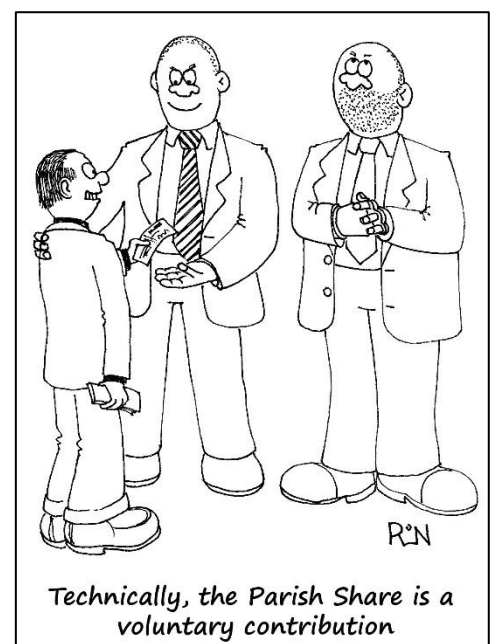
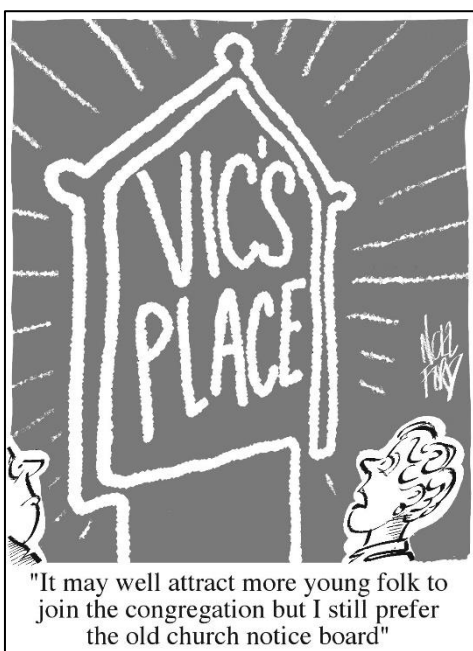
Seasonal Lunch

18th February – Winter Lunch at Wortley Hall – guests welcome

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

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

Andrew Robinson



Prayers and Poems Page

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "2nd February is Candlemas - when we commemorate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. Zechariah was the priest there, he had been told by God that he would meet the Messiah before his death, and his beautiful prayer in Luke 2:29-32 became known as 'Nunc Dimittis.' It is very familiar to those of us who use the Compline service".

Nunc dimittis - By Nigel Beeton

A child within my arms now lays
Asleep, He's in my care
The Son of God, the Spirit says
And now I speak this prayer:

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord*

Salvation You have now prepared
Before the face of men
Salvation with the world is shared
So all may live again

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord*

A light upon the Gentiles, He
And Israel's glory, too
Now all Your saving love may see
And all may come to You.

*O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord.*

The Gift - By Megan Carter

Saved by grace lest any should boast
Such is His gift obtained at great cost,
God's Son was given to set men free,
Redemption made ours as He hung on the tree.

In wonder the angels saw Him go
From the glories of heaven to our world below,
This earth once fair now corrupt from the fall,
Fellowship broken and lost to all.

Bought back with a price that we could not pay
The taint of our sin by His blood washed away,
Reconciled to the Father, all this we have gained
Salvation His gift if we call on His Name.

Anna - (Luke 2:36-38) - By Daphne Kitching

All those years in the temple,
In waiting widowhood.
All those years
Worshipping, wondering,
What had it all been about?
Seven years of marriage
Then this lifetime alone,

And yet
There was this sense of purpose,
Of Spirit-significance
Impending,
Then there He was,
The child.
And Simeon sang
Of salvation and sorrow,
Of rising and falling,
Of light and loss,
Of revelation and piercing.

I gazed at the child,
Glimpsed the glory of God
And gave thanks
For the years.

Disturb us, Lord - Attributed to Sir Francis Drake 16th Century

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with
ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Contact Details for Local Groups

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Thursday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm
Contact - Girl Guiding Website / To
Register Interest

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

Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm
2nd Pack 6:30 pm to 8:0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 245 2780

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)
Thursday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Contact Shane Porteous
shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

The Grenoside Singers

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

Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some
Sundays and weekdays.
Please make contact if you wish to play or
learn. Secretary: Joe Webster:
whitleyhall@yicspl.co.uk
Website:
whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Chapelton and District PROBUS Club

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

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



Vicar: Revd. Tim Gill	E-mail: ttimgill@aol.com	Phone: 257 0002
Church Office		
Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm		
Website	https://stmaryseccllesfield.org.uk/	
Groups:	Times and Days:	Phone:
Choir Practice in Church Contact: Lynda Pearce	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	208 3500
Music Group Contact: Andrea Whittaker	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	246 0746
Mother's Union in Gatty Hall Contact: Maureen Lambert	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690
Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Anne Rostron	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	245 5492
Bell Ringers Contact: Phil Hirst	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	286 2766
Gatty Hall Bookings		0780 307 8223
For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar		
Magazine e-mail:	stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com	

We thought you might find it helpful to know what the significant days and Sundays of each month are called

Date	Day	Colour
Sunday 2nd February	Candlemas – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple	White
Sunday 9th February	The 4th Sunday before Lent	Green
Sunday 16th February	Septuagesima – 3rd Sunday before Lent	Green
Sunday 23rd February	Sexagesima – 2nd Sunday before Lent	Green



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