News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine May

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First Words

May is with us and as I write this it is hot and sunny day. This year the month of May falls entirely within Easter Season, and in our worship we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and all that this means for us and for our world.

Every Thursday we have a simple mid-week Communion Service at 9.30am.

Coffee Shop is open on **Tuesday & Friday** mornings at 10am, and the **Gardeners** are usually working on those mornings too.

On **Sunday 4th May** we celebrate the **80th Anniversary of VE Day** with a special service at **10am** followed by cake and sparkling wine.

Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday.

On Tuesday 6th May the afternoon Bible Study group will meet at 2pm.

On Saturday 10th May the monthly Prayer Breakfast is at 9am followed by Bereavement Cafe at 10.30am.

In a change to our usual monthly pattern of services there will be **Communion** on **Sunday 11th May at 10am** (John will lead and preach - Tim will be at St Mark's for their APCM). Baptisms at 12noon.

The newly elected PCC will meet on Monday 12th May at 7.30pm.

On **Sunday 18th May at 10am** we will be joined by the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows for the **May Queens** service as part of our **Prayer and Praise**.

On Monday 19th May Tim will be Hatfield for the next Major Churches Meeting.

We welcome Chapeltown Cubs to Church on Wednesday 21st May at 6.30pm.

On Thursday 22nd May at 4.30pm there will be a wedding rehearsal in Church. The wedding is on Saturday 24th May at 3pm.

Monday 26th may is a Bank Holiday.

On **Thursday 29th May** (Ascension Day) after the 9.30am service at **11am** there will be a **burial of ashes** in the Churchyard.

As usual there is lots going on at St Mary's, but at the heart is our worship and prayer.

I usually open up Church (the new West Doors) for Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday between 8.20am & 8.30am; after a time of silent prayer I say Morning Prayer - anyone is welcome to join in.

God bless you,

Tim

Front Cover - from the web - Bluebells in woodland setting

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 selfesteem, 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

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(The alternative Collect for Ascension Day)

A few years ago the Church of England published a set of alternative collects for every Sunday and major festival of the Church year. A collect is a prayer that brings together the themes of the day. These alternative prayers are usually simpler and briefer than the 'official collects' and I feel that they often get to the heart of the celebration because of this.

This year the Ascension falls on Thursday 29th May and is, as always, part of the Easter Season. This prayer reminds us that Jesus did not rise from the grave as a ghost or a spirit; He was raised physically, embodied. However, His risen nature was changed - He was unrecognised by close friends until He wanted to be known; He could be present in a locked room and yet still could be held and on two occasions, even eat a meal with the disciples.

Ascension Day celebrates Christ returning to the Father; we might say returns 'up' to heaven, or into the heart of Reality.

The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles tell us that this risen Christ 'ascended' into the presence of the Father, again not as a Spirit, but bodily. And it is this that helps us to understand the meaning and importance of the Ascension.

The body of Christ that ascended into heaven carried the wounds, the scars that tell of Jesus' love and of the cost of loving. There is pain and suffering and even victimhood at the heart of God. This is the meaning and the mystery of the Ascension.

When we pray, the One who hears our prayers knows what it is to love; knows what it is to suffer and to weep. The one who hears our prayers and receives our worship is a God of compassion; God knows and understands our life, knows and understands us. And so we can approach God with hope and with confidence.

May Christ risen and ascended Christ bless us with the joy of His presence this Eastertide and always. Amen.

From the Registers

Funerals

Tuesday 8th April Monday 14th April Wednesday 16th April Barry William Wetherall and Joan Valerie Wetherall Donna Hopkins Julia Gladys Fielding

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

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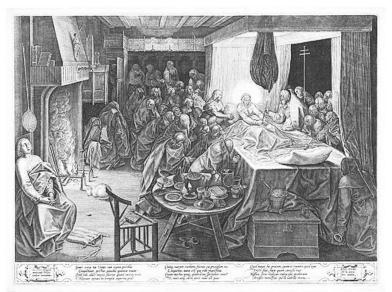
God in The Arts

Editor: For 2025, the Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist.

He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Death of the Virgin' by Bruegel

Upton House in Warwickshire was the home of a millionaire oil magnate, Walter Samuel, in the 1920s and 30s. The origin of that fortune is displayed in the collection of early Shell posters, but the house is now owned by the National Trust.

The interiors still breathe the art deco atmosphere of that earlier lifestyle. Outside there are beautiful terraced gardens, imposing cedar trees, and spectacular asters. Inside there is a remarkable art collection with works by Bosch, Holbein, El Greco, Canaletto and Stubbs. And two paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525-



69) – 'The Massacre of the Innocents' and 'The Death of the Virgin.' Bruegel's works are full of movement and colour as he depicts the peasant life and landscapes of his day. The mood for 'The Death of the Virgin' is very different. It is a grisaille, painted in grey tones that suit the theme of life ending.

This month of May is often known as Mary's month, with May Queen celebrations and the feast of the Visitation on the 31^{st.} On that day we give thanks for the beginning of new life in the womb of our Lady as she goes to share that good news with her cousin, Elizabeth. In Bruegel's painting in Upton House, it is the ending of her life that is the theme. Local villagers gather around her bed which is set in a typical Flemish room of the period. The source of this story is the Golden Legend. In the Gospels we hear of Mary at the Incarnation and Cana. We know Mary was with the disciples at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and, as the Golden Legend relates, here they are with her at her death. John, the beloved disciple, seems to be dozing by the fireside, perhaps dreaming of that special moment at the crucifixion when he was entrusted with the care of the mother of Jesus.

Mary holds a candle and is praying as she looks at the crucifix on the pillow at the end of the bed. For all the figures gathered around, Bruegel has depicted the scene as a special, intimate moment, when she is about to be reunited with her son. We can think of Mary praying the Magnificat and Mary praying with the disciples at Pentecost. And prayer suffuses this scene as she commends her life to God's grace. The light that shines forth faintly around the bed will blaze out in resurrection glory as she is welcomed into the heavenly courts.

In the Orthodox Church this moment is known as the falling asleep of Mary. If so, it is a falling asleep to wake into the realm of life eternal. She whose words to the angels began the great gospel of salvation in Jesus; she who told the servants at Cana to do what Jesus asks; she who followed Jesus to the foot of the cross – now in this painting, she places her hope and trust in that same son who showed that death was not the end, but birth into new life. Mary's Yes to the angel is a lesson and example for all of us as we try to follow God's will. As we ponder this scene of Bruegel in her month of May, we can echo the angel's words to our Lady: 'Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you' – now and eternally

Mothers' Union – April Meeting

We welcomed Police Sargeant Matt Cook, Inspector Kay Fitzgerald and colleague Gill Blake to our meeting today.

Inspector Fitzgerald talked to us about the Herbert Protocol, living with dementia, an initiative to help find dementia patients who wander off alone and return them quickly to their families. The initiative was formed by Norwich police and is now force wide. Dementia patients regress and often return to places they knew and loved as children, schools, playgrounds, houses where they lived with brothers and sisters. Forms are completed with this information and lodged with the police on their missing persons list. 400 have already signed up.

Ecclesfield Parish council have paid for tags which a dementia sufferer can wear. When tags are scanned by a mobile phone a name and contact number is shown, this allows help for the person to be found quickly.

The police have rolled out the initiative force wide and are hoping to get the information out to the public, in doctors' surgeries, churches, community groups etc.

If anyone needs any more information, then please ask a Mothers Union member. We have placed leaflets in church so feel free to take one.

Most of us know someone living with dementia so it is quite heartening to hear that there is now the Herbert Protocol in place.

Sargeant Cook told us that they still walk the beat, although rarely seen they are still there. He also talked about how we can keep our houses and cars safe, windows and doors locked, gardens gates locked, car keys in faraday pouches or tins.

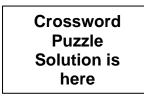
Andrea

Ecclesfield Deanery Mothers' Union Festival

St Mary's has the honour of hosting the Ecclesfield Deanery Mothers' Union Festival on Wednesday 11 June 2025. It will be a Communion Service, in church, at 2.00pm, followed by tea and cake at the back of the church afterwards.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend and any offers of help with baking or serving cups of tea would be gratefully appreciated.

Jennifer Armeson







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Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism

The Revd Dr Jo White considers the practicalities of a baptism

For the last couple of months we've been thinking about baptism, it's place within church life and what it means to each of us on a personal level.

This month let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), a specially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless-steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows!

Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus.

Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction.

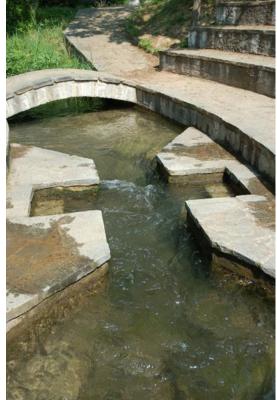


Image © PFL Baptistery Of Saint Lydia – see link <u>https://kavalatour.com/en/holy-</u> places/baptistery-of-saint-lydia

People as far back as the 3rd century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means.

They were allowed to take part in the Sunday service up to the 'Peace' and then they had to leave and went to a separate building for teaching. In other words, they couldn't even watch the Holy Communion part of the service until they had been baptised.

Baptism symbolised their public acceptance of the Christian faith, and it was quite literally their first step in their life as a member of the church, as the actual baptism was carried out in a special building, outside but attached to the main church building. Baptisms were done by the Bishop on a certain day or days each year.

This month:

Where were you baptised? Do you have any photos of that day? This month have a look at the fonts in some local churches and see what shapes they are and any decoration they may have.

St James the Least of All

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

On why people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew

The Rectory St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. It was only when the church filled with the smell of burned bacon that we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

It ran:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Nicene Creed as said today

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



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For more details about our events and activities Call us on 0114 2463615 or follow us on Facebook or Twitter



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An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes

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

'Meaningless! Meaningless!' This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as it examines the futility of human experience *'under the sun'*. The author is named as *'The Teacher'* (1:1, Hebrew *qoheleth*), traditionally identified with King Solomon. Although focusing on life in the physical world, the book ends with, *'Fear God and keep his commandments'* (12:13).

Ecclesiastes reminds us of the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find meaning and purpose without God:

Our strivings 'under the sun' can only lead to disillusionment (1:5–11). Therefore, we need to accept the life God gives us and enjoy it to the full.

Wisdom is given to those who please God (2:26). Such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16–18), or secure enduring reward (2:12–17). We cannot control our immediate future, resulting in uncertainty (6:12), and there are difficult questions about life and death itself (9:1–3). In response, we need to understand our human limitations before God.

God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully anticipate: 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven' (3:1–15).

However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational, as it is ordered by God: 'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' (3:11). We should remember our Creator when we are young before the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1-8).

In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, while trusting and obeying our Creator.

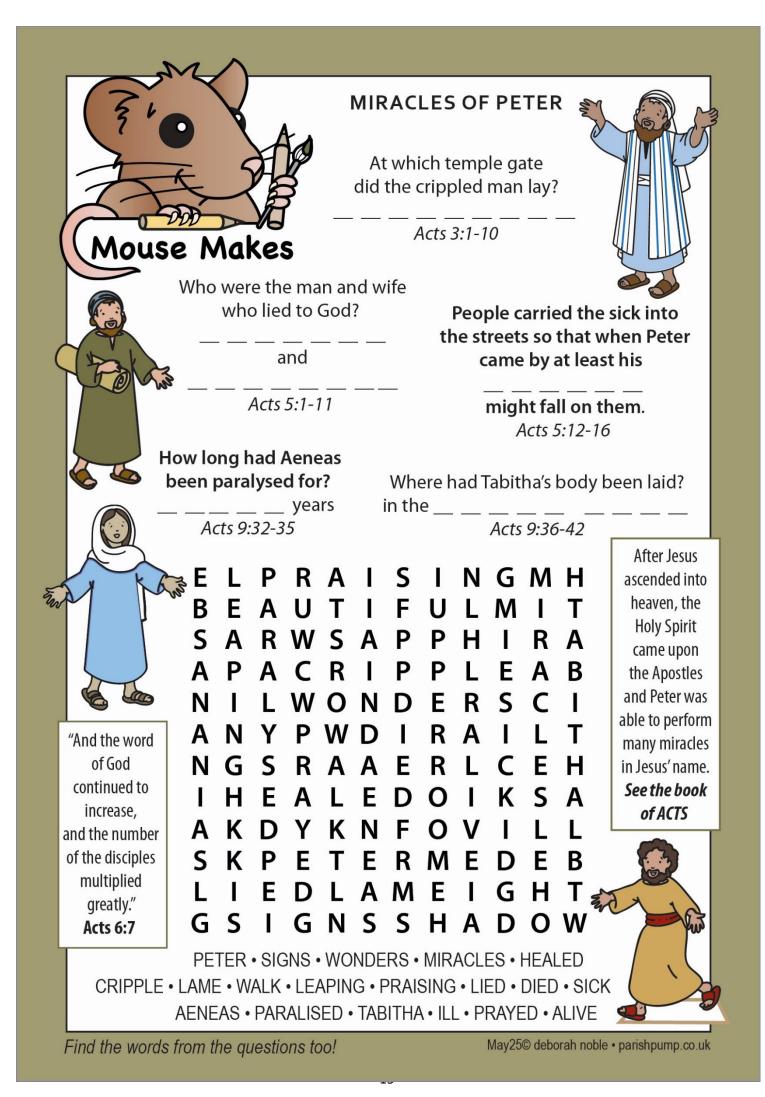
Philip, the apostle with common sense – 1st May

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined? Someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions? That person's patron saint should be Philip.

Philip came from Bethsaida and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus; he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd.

He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindliness. Such a person is a gift to any church! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.

Note: In the Roman Rite, the feast day of Philip, along with that of James the Less, is traditionally observed on 1 May, the anniversary of the dedication of the church dedicated to them in Rome (now called the Church of the Twelve Apostles). In the short-lived calendar reform of 1960, it was transferred to 11 May, but since 1969 it has been assigned to 3 May. The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Philip's feast day on 14 November.



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.

Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floriensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation,* theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

*For resources on this question, try the Faraday Institute <u>https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/</u> BioLogos <u>https://biologos.org/</u> Christians in Science <u>https://www.cis.org.uk/</u>

Ezekiel 11:19 (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

19 I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The cricket season started on 19th April and the 1st XI were at home to Hallam 1st XI, promoted back to the Premier League. Hallam batted first and achieved 167 all out but Whitley managed to beat their total relatively easily with 3 wickets and 17 overs remaining – a win by seven wickets with Tim Smith achieving a total of 76 runs and Neil Longhurst 44 not out. The following weekend at Cleethorpes, the 1st XI faced a tougher test having achieved a total 0f 2013 at the end of 50 overs and were beaten with just over 3 overs remaining. The 2nd XI has had a brilliant start to the season with a win at Houghton Main followed by a home win against Penistone

with a total of 287 with Penistone all-out for 218. The 3rd team had a loss in the first match to Wadworth but achieved a victory over Caribbean the following week.

This year, the club will be proudly celebrating 100 years since the move from Whitley Lane, near the Norfolk Arms in Grenoside, to Ecclesfield. A revised scoring position and replacement score board are all part of improvements for the 2025 season. There are several special events planned which I will post in these articles each month – highlights include – a ladies T20 final in May, a Whitley 6s competition in June, a 20/20 match against a Northampton County team in July, a match against an MCC team in August and a Grand Centenary Dinner in September at the Owlerton OEC with David Gower as guest speaker – tickets still available

Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane (12 noon) (see website for other home games for juniors and ladies)

1	3 rd May	1 st XI	v	Wickersley 1 st XI			
	4 th May	1 st XI	v	Sheriff Hutton Bridge 1 st XI K3 I	Dental Cup		
	10 th May	2 nd XI	v	Darfield 1 st XI			
	17 th May	2 nd XI	v	Rotherham 1 st XI			
	24 th May	1 st XI	v	Tickhill 1 st XI			
	26 th May Monday			Ladies T20 Finals			
	31 st May	2 nd XI	v	Consiborough 1 st XI			
\backslash	6 th June			Past Players BBQ			
	7 th June	1 st XI	v	Barnsley 1 st XI			

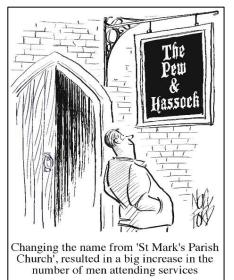
All visitors welcome to use the facilities in the pavilion where snacks and drinks are available.

Contact: Joe Webster, Secretary: 07969 014592 or Andrew Robinson, President: 07793 595238 www.whitleyhall.play-cricket.com





...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...



Thought for the Month

At the beginning of May two celebrations come together. We continue throughout May to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus; and on Sunday 5th May, the third Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the end of the war in Europe.

Easter, according to Saint John (see John 20:1-18), begins with a man and a woman in a garden. John tells the story of Christ's resurrection in such a way as to remind his readers of the second creation story in Genesis chapter two, the story of Adam and Eve.

Like Saint Paul, John sees the resurrection of Jesus as the start of a new creation; or perhaps better, the renewal, the healing of God's creation. It is the hope of God's kingdom breaking into our fallen world. The risen Jesus is the beginning of this renewal and this hope.

The great themes of Easter are relevant to the celebration of VE Day: the defeat of the evil that mars and distorts God's creation; the triumph of Christ over death and over those whose power is founded on death and violence.

On VE Day we give thanks for the defeat of a regime that was the very opposite of God's kingdom, one that ruled by death and hatred; one that worshipped power and violence. We give thanks for the fragile peace that we have, until recent years, enjoyed in Europe.

We remember those whose sacrifice won for us the peace and the freedom that we too often take for granted. It is in the hope of eternal life in Christ that we remember them.

We pledge ourselves to being a people of peace, and in the Bible peace is much more than the absence of violence; it is life and security. In the VE Day Celebration we commit ourselves to do all that we can to build a world that honours the sacrifice of those who died in the Second World War; a world of peace and justice and fulness of life for all.

The world today seems to be more unstable and insecure than for many years. It gives a relevance to our celebration and our remembering on the anniversary of VE Day. It makes our prayers and our hopes more important; it makes it more urgent that we are peace-makers in our communities.

Peace and freedom were won for us: by Christ in His Cross and Resurrection and by those who gave so much to defeat the forces of the Third Reich. The anniversary of VE prompts us to ask what we will do with this freedom, how we will honour their gifts, what kind of world will we give to our children and grandchildren?

God bless you, Tim

Annual General Meeting.

I am pleased to report that at our Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 27th May we elected two wardens, Ann Hackett and Michael Waldron; and also two PCC Members, Andrew Whittaker and Chris Harper. There remains one PCC Vacancy.

If anyone is thinking about exploring becoming a warden in the future please speak to Michael and Ann.

Saints Alive.

After a very successful trial run, the Saints Alive Course will be starting again on Monday 2nd June at 3.,30pm in Church. If you are interested or want to know more, please speak to Tim. Next year the course will be held at St Mark's and will be on a week-day evening.

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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

Farewell to George Foreman – boxer and preacher

Warm tributes were paid to the Christian US heavyweight boxing legend George Foreman, who died aged 76 on 21st of March.

The two-time heavyweight champion of the world became a Christian in 1977, three years after his famous match with Muhammad Ali, known as the 'Rumble in the Jungle'.

Born into a poor single-parent family of seven children in Texas, Foreman dropped out of junior high school, but was able to turn his life around through Job Corps, which helped him get into boxing.



Foreman proved to be a natural: at only 19 he won the heavyweight boxing gold medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

After this, he turned pro, and then won 37 straight matches on his way to face reigning champion Joe Frazier in Kingston, Jamaica, winning by technical knockout.

It was after a defeat in 1977 that Foreman had a profound experience of Jesus Christ, and was converted. Aged 28, he abandoned boxing and became a minister. He founded The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Foreman boxed again in 1987, to raise money for a youth centre he had founded. He then won another 24 matches in a row. His last match was in 1997, when he ended his career with a record of 76 wins and five losses.

In 1985, he married for the fifth time, to Mary Joan Martelly. He had five sons - all called George - five daughters, and two adopted daughters.

In March his family posted on Instagram: "Our hearts are broken. A devout preacher, a devoted husband, a loving father, and a proud grand and great grandfather, he lived a life marked by unwavering faith, humility, and purpose."



The Gardening Year – May

Pots, glorious pots - today you will discover everything there is to know about garden containers. You can be forgiven for thinking, your choices are limited to plastic or terracotta, but as you will discover there are many types of pots available, some of which you might already have at home! You can grow plants in virtually anything that holds soil and has holes in the bottom for drainage. Your only limit is your imagination and it's a great excuse for some creative recycling.

Plastic many benefits - Plastic pots are strong and flexible despite their light weight. They are available in all sorts of colours to blend into the background to make a statement! Plastic pots are great for moisture loving plants as they retain water well and do not wick it away like some materials. Plastic is an inert material suitable for growing edible plants.

Advantages of plastic pots

Cheap to buy and easy to find - light weight, strong and flexible - lots of different sizes. Shape and colours available. - good for gardeners who forget to water! - perfect for moisture loving plants - inert material means it is safe for food.

Disadvantages of plastic pots

Made from non-renewable sources - difficult to recycle in some areas - offers little insulation to soil and plants - can suffer from UV damage and become brittle - can fade and become unsightly - easy to waterlog plants and rot the roots.

PVC - many window boxes are now made from PVC, which makes them very stable. Due to their popularity prices are coming down all the time, making PVC one of the cheapest options.

Advantages of PVC

Rot and moisture free - unattractive to insects - does not crack or warp - can be painted to look like wood - a cheaper choice.

Disadvantages of PVC

PVC is made from non-renewable recourses - PVC is difficult to recycle - insulation is not good, so soil can get too hot in summer or too cold in winter.

Vegetables prepare site for growing pumpkins and marrows outside. Erect canes for runner beans, plant the bean seed with the eyes on the concave side down in the ground as this is where the roots emerge from. If you ae growing runner beans in containers there is a variety that only grows 3 ft tall ideal for containers. Sow seeds for outdoor cucumbers and cover with cloches until growing well. Marketmore is a prolific variety with tasty 6inch fruit.

Eat the Seasons – May

Vegetables - asparagus, broccoli, carrots, jersey royal new potatoes, lettuce & salad leaves, new potatoes, peas, radishes, rocket, samphire, spinach, spring onions, watercress, wild nettles

Fruit - Bananas (Windward), Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb

Herbs – basil, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, oregano, mint, nasturtium, parsley (curly), rosemary, sage, sorrel, tarragon

Meat - Lamb, Wood Pigeon

Fish - cod, coley, crab, haddock, langoustine, plaice, prawns, salmon, sardines, sea trout, shrimp, whelks, whitebait

Visit - <u>www.eattheseasons.co.uk</u>

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Links and some images in this magazine are clickable - enjoy

Measuring success - After the local Churches Together meetings had concluded, the four ministers were discussing the results with one another.

The Methodist minister said, "What a success! We gained two new families."

The Baptist pastor said, "We did better - we gained three new families."

The URC minister said: "That's nothing - we gained five new families!"

And the Anglican vicar smiled gently. "We did best of all. We just said goodbye to our 10 biggest troublemakers."

Genesis and politicians - A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

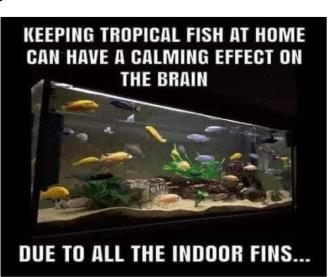


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of salads

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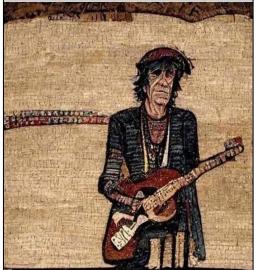


I only went in for an angle-grinder, a wet suit and a 40 foot ladder.



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

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



The oldest known depiction of Keith Richards dates back to the 16th century

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Time to Eat - Asparagus

A serious contender for heavyweight champion of the eat the seasons year, the asparagus season is tantalizingly brief but the quality is frequently exceptional. Asparagus deteriorates relatively quickly after picking, which is why freshly picked English asparagus is best. Traditionally matched with hollandaise sauce, asparagus picked just a day or so ago (try your nearest farmers' market) requires minimal messing with. Enjoy it with a drizzle of olive oil, a twist of black pepper and perhaps a few shavings of Parmesan cheese.

Earliest records of asparagus cultivation trace it back to Greece some 2,500 years ago. The Greeks believed that asparagus possessed medicinal properties and recommended it as a cure for toothaches. It was highly prized by the Romans who grew it in high-walled courtyards. Asparagus has been grown in England since the sixteenth century (it is not widely cultivated anywhere else in the UK) and during the nineteenth century it caught on in North America and China.



A member of the lily family, Asparagus officinalis is the edible variety of the asparagus family. Unusually the plant has virtually no leaves; the stems are examples of phylloclades (photosynthetic branches). White asparagus is popular in much of Europe and is produced by keeping the growing shoots hidden from light under soil. The less tender but more fully flavoured green variety predominates in England. Purple asparagus has a slightly higher sugar content than its green cousins, so it's sweeter and more tender. Good for eating raw.

Look for firm but tender stalks with good colour and closed tips. Smaller, thinner stalks are not necessarily more tender; in fact thicker specimens are often better due to the smaller ratio of skin to volume. Once picked, asparagus rapidly loses flavour and tenderness, so it really is worth eating it on the day you buy it. If that isn't possible, store asparagus in the fridge with a damp paper towel wrapped around the bottom of the stalks and you can get away with keeping it for a couple of days. Wash in cold water and remove the bottom ends of the stalks (with fresh asparagus they will snap off cleanly). Boil 2 to 4 minutes in a skillet or steam quickly until just tender, around 4 to 7 minutes depending on thickness. Using an inexpensive asparagus steamer will help ensure perfect results as it cooks the stalk bottoms more quickly than the delicate tips.

Asparagus and Garden Pea Risotto

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/asparagusandgardenpe_83709

Duck's Egg with Asparagus Soldiers

https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/recipes/duck-s-egg-with-asparagussoldiers-445485.html

Bring Me My Spears

https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/features/bring-me-my-spears-skyegyngell-s-asparagus-tips-2285845.html

2P or not 2P - Asparagusic Acid creates byproducts as it's broken down in your body. These chemical byproducts contain sulphur and are highly volatile, meaning that when you pee them out, they evaporate quickly. This is why you get hit with that unmistakable scent right away. Interestingly only 2 out of 3 people can smell it – but we all make it!

Asparagus contains more folic acid than any other vegetable. It is also a source of fibre, potassium, vitamins A and C and glutathione, a phytochemical with antioxidant and anticarcinogenic properties.

With summer marriages in mind....

One plus one equals one may not be an accurate mathematical concept, but it is an accurate description of God's intention for the marriage relationship. - *Wayne Mack.*

A man's children are pieces of himself, but his wife is himself. - Matthew Henry

How soon marriage counselling sessions would end if husbands and wives were competing in thoughtful self-denial! - Walter J Chantry

Love is grand: divorce is a hundred grand. -

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- **9** 'My God, my God, why have you me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)

14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)

- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, "- here and keep watch" (Mark 14:34) (4)

Clues Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- **16** 'About midnight the sailors they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30-31) (4)
- **19** 'According to your great compassion out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

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Prayer for May 2025

Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy- turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus *every* knee shall ultimately bow - and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.



By Daphne Kitching

Chapeltown & District Probus Club



The April meeting welcomed the return of Paul Adey who continued his fascinating series of talks on the Motor Car Industry. This time, he focused on the first part of the history of United States motor cars with the three big companies of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. Quire amazing how the same key people circulated from company to company with some of the great names moving around and not all making a fortune.

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. <u>There are still a few places available at a price of £43.50 if anyone is interested in joining us – please contact our Secretary - details below.</u> Future visits will be the Royal Armories Museum in Leeds, likely to be in September, and the AVRO Aviation Museum, likely to be later in 2025 or early 2026 and Jodrell Bank now scheduled for 2026. – watch this space.

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).

Meetings9th MayPaul Adey14th MayJonathon Jones11th JuneMike Higginbottom

American Motor Industry (part 1) Bugle Boy The History of Sheffield Cinema

Contact details: e-Mail <u>chapeltown.probus@gmail.com</u> Website <u>https://chapeltown-probus.org.uk/</u>

Andrew Robinson

T0 THE SWALLOW

Oh return thou winged fury, Nomad of the western sky, Diving like an acrobat, Swerving, swirling up on high.

How we miss thy glorious colours Shining with thy white and blue, Blending like a sparkling river Bringing joy to me and you.

Welcome home oh nature's builder, Weaving with thy busy beak; Weaving by the shady river, And on the wind-swept peak.

Graham Blackburn (III.A)

Prayers and Poems Page

Life - By Daphne Kitching

Life is not always fair, or kind. Life batters, People betray, let us down, Even those we trusted with our hearts and health. Landscapes change, Things we knew and understood Are tossed in the air To come down damaged and different. It all seems too hard, Too hard to bear. And it isn't fair.

What then? Give up, turn back, Collapse and concentrate on the disintegration? Or with Peter, look up and say, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Life is not always fair, or kind. That's why Jesus came.

Artificial Opponents? By Nigel Beeton

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too, Who can be bored with so much to do? Puzzles online, and less now in print Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find

Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind, Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games And a beautiful chess set, abandoned – a shame!

But do you remember (long ago as it seems), When we played games with people, and not these machines?

The bells rang out in England - By Nigel Beeton

The bells rang out in England And songs of heartfelt joy, But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting Had such a dreadful cost In blood and sweat and mortal threat And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended – In Europe's shores at least; Our people brave feared not the grave To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us For eighty peaceful years. Yet now, again, some brutal men Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating This coming VE Day; Yet not at ease, but on our knees For lasting peace, we pray.

Prove it - By Megan Carter

'Prove it!' they cried, 'that You're the Messiah Wouldn't He come as a conquering king? Not as a poor man riding a donkey How do you think we'd believe such a thing?'

Wherever He went large crowds would follow, He calmed the storm and turned water to wine, The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear, Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before, He fed the five thousand with fish and bread Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed, He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin Rose up from the grave, what more could He do? To prove of His love for all of mankind Believe it or not, it's all up to you.

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 25thecclesfieldscouts@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@ycspl.co.uk Website: whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

Chapeltown 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 chapeltown.probus@gmail.com We are now face to face see www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk

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

Useful Contacts

	E-mail:	Phone:
Vicar:		057 0000
Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
Church Wardens Ann Hackett		
Michael Waldron		
Church Office Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
Website	https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/	
Groups: Choir Practice in Church	Times and Days: 7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	Phone:
Contact: Lynda Pearce		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 Bantisms or	Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vid	ar

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
4 th May	3rd Sunday of Easter	White
11 th May	4th Sunday of Easter	White
18 th May	5th Sunday of Easter	White
25 th May	6th Sunday of Easter	White
29 th May	Ascension Day	White

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