

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine April

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

Price 60p

# First Words

We begin this month in the middle of Holy Week, the most important week in the year for Christians.

On Wednesday 1st April at 6pm we have our regular time of Contemplative Prayer, The Seeking Heart - with a Holy week theme.

Maundy Thursday is on the 2nd of April. We have our usual mid-week Communion at 9.30am. There will be a funeral in Church at 1pm, and then at 7pm we have the Eucharist of Christ's Last Supper, followed by an hour of silent prayer, remembering Jesus' words to His disciples, asking them to stay with Him for one hour.

Good Friday, 3rd April 10am Good Friday worship; 12noon to 3pm Three Hours at the Cross.

On Holy Saturday, 4th April, there are no services in Church.

Easter Day begins with the 10am Easter Eucharist with renewal of our Baptismal promises. Evening worship is at 6.30pm.

Please note Tim will be taking time off from Monday 6th April to Friday 10th April inclusive.

On Thursday 9th April, Mid-week Communion will be celebrated by Revd. Jeni Fryer.

Saturday 11th April, 9am Prayer Breakfast, 10.30am Bereavement Cafe.

Sunday 12th April 10am Prayer & Praise; 12noon Baptisms and 6.30pm The Eucharist.

Wednesday 15th April 2pm Meeting to plan hymns and services for May and June - all are welcome to come and help. 6pm The Seeking Heart, Contemplative Prayer & Meditation for all.

Thursday 16th April 9.30am Mid-week Communion followed by a service at Nightingale Nursing Home.

On Monday 20th April we have a wedding rehearsal in Church at 4pm.

Tuesday 21st April - Major churches meeting at St Mark's Broomhill.

Wednesday 22nd April 2pm Finance Committee Meeting.

Sunday 26th April 12noon St Mary's Annual Parochial Meeting.

Monday 27th April 1pm Wedding in Church, 7pm Baptism Preparation.

Tuesday 28th April 2pm Bible Study Group.

Wednesday 29th April 10am - 12noon Montenev Primary School visit to Church.

For more information about any of these events please speak to Tim.

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**Front Cover – "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"**  
the traditional response to the Easter greeting "Alleluia! Christ is risen!",

**Back Cover – Architectural Sketch** © 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.



Registered Member **91910**  
**MBACP (Accred)**

Email: [kate-guest@talktalk.net](mailto:kate-guest@talktalk.net)

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# God in The Arts

*Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the screen at the east end*

## 'He gave us eyes to see them' – the screen at the east end

"I am the light of the world," our Lord says in St John's Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century candles were placed on the altar.



Wikimedia Commons:  
Evelyn Simak  
Wymondham Abbey - the chancel

Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find nourishment and guidance for life's pilgrimage in communion at that table. Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper's masterpiece.

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## We couldn't have done it without you!

Hi, I wanted to send a huge thank you for all the Easter eggs donated to our foodbank.

By your generosity you've made sure that every family visiting us this Easter leaves with something special. A treat for them and for their children.

You make our food bank a warmer place. Thank you for everything you do!

**Best regards Katharine** (St Paul's foodbank)

# From the Registers

## Baptisms:

Sunday 1st March  
Sunday 8th March

Zack Oliver Birkin & Rosie Emma Birkin  
Penny Billie Parfremment

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

## Funerals:

Wednesday 25th March  
Thursday 26th March

Terence Holland  
Cherish Adele Bean.

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

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## Mothers' Union

Meeting Wednesday on 4th of March 2026

Maureen Lambert led our meeting and began by reading our important dates and notices for the Diocese this coming Summer. We sang a hymn with gusto and Norma followed this with prayers for our M.U. Union, family, friends and included our worldwide mothers' union members. In celebration of 150 years of Mothers' Union Maureen had brought along Ecclesfield mothers union memorabilia from the archives.

A very lively and animated hour past with members enjoying the opportunity to reminisce and chat about celebration and mothers' union milestones of the past, our members recognised faces and shared their memories. there was much discussion, laughter, and appreciation present at this very special meeting. Thank you, Maureen.

Our next meeting is in April and Pat Blackburn will be speaking to us about a church trip to Greece.

**Bev Scott**

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## The Seeking Heart

Introducing Contemplative Prayer for all

Meeting in St Mary's at 6pm on the first and third  
Wednesday every month

We next meet on Wednesday 1st & Wednesday 15th April

For more information see Tim. All welcome



# Prayer for the Month

## *The Exsultet:*

**Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
O Universe, dance around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!**

**Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,  
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!  
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!**

**Darkness vanishes for ever!  
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!  
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.**

The Exsultet is a song of joy which is sung only on Easter morning after the lighting of the Easter candle and the sharing of the new light in the unlit Church.

It is a song which celebrates Christ's victory over death and evil, over all the forces of darkness which destroy life and hope. In the journey of Holy Week, we see Jesus in despair in Gethsemane; we see Him betrayed and arrested, we see His disciples flee, and then, alone, He faces His Passion and Cross.

On Good Friday death and chaos and evil seem to have won the day. Christ is defeated, the hope that He brought to the world lies in tatters at the foot of the Cross. all that is left to do is to take His broken body and lay it in the tomb.

And then, on Easter Day, joy and hope break into the chaos and the darkness of the world. Christ is revealed as the victor, death and darkness flee from Him. Death is defeated once and for all and for all time.

Resurrection is not God stepping in at the last moment to prevent defeat, rather it is God acting when all hope is gone, when the very worst thing imaginable has happened. Resurrection is the triumph of hope when there is no hope, for those who have no hope.

And the resurrection of Christ means that no one is beyond hope, that there is no situation which is beyond the victory of God in Christ.

And so, on Easter morning we sing of the victory of Christ, of the triumph of life and light and love. In the heart of the darkness the light of Christ shines and the darkness has not mastered it (John 1:5).

On Easter morning as we sing the Exsultet, we join with all creation, with things earthly and heavenly in rejoicing in the triumph of the Crucified God.

May the hope and the joy of the risen Christ be with you this Eastertide. Tim.

# Andrew Jones

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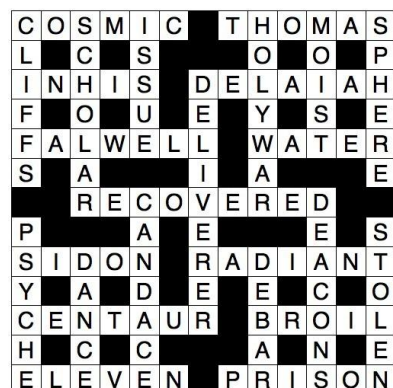
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# The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a seven-part series. This will run until the July issue.

*'A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.'* (Proverbs 14:30).

This month we are looking at the Deadly Sin of *envy*. As a consuming desire to have what others have got, it's a major source of unhappiness.

It is different to jealousy: *'Envy is wanting something that someone else has. Jealousy is the fear of losing something you already have to someone else'* (Brene Brown). We can envy things like wealth, looks and, possessions, resulting in resentment, bitterness and anger. The pursuit of possessing what others have will always leave us empty and dissatisfied, as the use of social media demonstrates.

How do we overcome envy in our lives?

*Gratitude: 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A grateful heart has no room for envy, when we focus on God's love for us and what He has given us, rather than looking at others' gifts and opportunities. God has created us uniquely to be the people we are and different to others. As a result, we are better able to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

*Trust: 'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'* (2 Corinthians 9:8). One of the chief causes of envy is FOMO: Fear of Missing Out! We can trust that God knows everything that we need and so we don't need to worry about missing out. By entrusting our lives to Him, we can confidently depend on God meeting all our needs.

Is God truly enough for me? *'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.'* (Psalm 23:1).

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## Miscellaneous observations on life...

My mouth doesn't seem to have a backspace key.

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

Tax collector: a person who has what it takes to take what you have.

It's nice to see people with plenty of get-up-and-go, especially if some of them are visiting you.

"Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver." (Carol Malia, BBC Anchor-woman)

When I was a kid and getting put to bed at 9:00, I couldn't wait until I was a grown-up and could stay up until whatever time I wanted. That time is, apparently, 9:00.

Every evening, I turn my troubles over to God. Why not? He's going to be up all night anyway.

# Reflected Faith Series: Same Old, Same Old

*The Revd Dr Jo White considers...*

Last time I wrote I suggested you listened carefully to your own internal thoughts and feelings before and after listening to a sermon – be it in church live or on a video or broadcast.

Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be? Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be ‘same old, same old’ and the preacher could just repeat last year’s sermon. Let’s face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a ‘long’ time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go.

Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes. Things might repeat but they are never truly ‘the same’.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community?

Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what’s happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

I shall hear those words differently this year than ever before. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

## ***This month***

Before you listen to this year’s Easter Sermon, think about the changes you’ve had in your life since last year and the world around us. How much more do you need a living Christ today? May you say in your depths, with me: *Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!*

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## Wheels

A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard.

The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

# St James the Least of All

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

## On the perils of small study groups

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

So, you are about to run an Alpha course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius.

I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of 'the body' over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry – hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends.

We tend not to go in for those sort of things, here at St James the Least of All, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madeira cakes. Once we have removed from the table, those who manage to stay awake will start to tackle the chosen topic.

However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting matters, such as why Colonel Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir anymore, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently, she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.

These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the 'white stone' in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services is of pivotal importance.

At 2.30pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour's slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish.

I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered – invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



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# Remembering the musical genius of Richard D'Oyly Carte

It was 125 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1901, that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.



Best known now for his association with Gilbert and Sullivan, Carte operated during the late Victorian age as a talent spotter/agent and theatrical impresario, as well as building a hotel empire. Among his many clients were Jacques Offenbach, Clara Schumann, James McNeill Whistler, Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde.

Carte was born in 1844 in Soho, but when he was a boy the family moved to Dartmouth Park in Islington, North London, where he was brought up in a large, detached house by an artistic family who spoke French at home two days a week. The name D'Oyly is French/Norman, and the family also had Welsh ancestry. Musically gifted, Carte studied violin and flute from an early age, then took up composing.

While risqué French musicals were popular on the London musical stage in the 1870s, Carte felt that wholesome, skilful English comic opera could take over. So, he recruited dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, whose first joint venture was the short, experimental *Trial by Jury*. This became a huge success and led to the 13 'Savoy' operas, whose clever wordplay and magical tunes exhibited such staying power that they are still in constant demand today.

To exploit his 'find', Carte founded the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which was run after his death by his second wife, Helen. He also built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theatre, and next to it the Savoy Hotel. Other hotels followed.

Biographer Hesketh Pearson said: "He took what other people thought were risks, but he felt were certainties."

## What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com).



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# What's the Big Idea?

## An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Lamentations

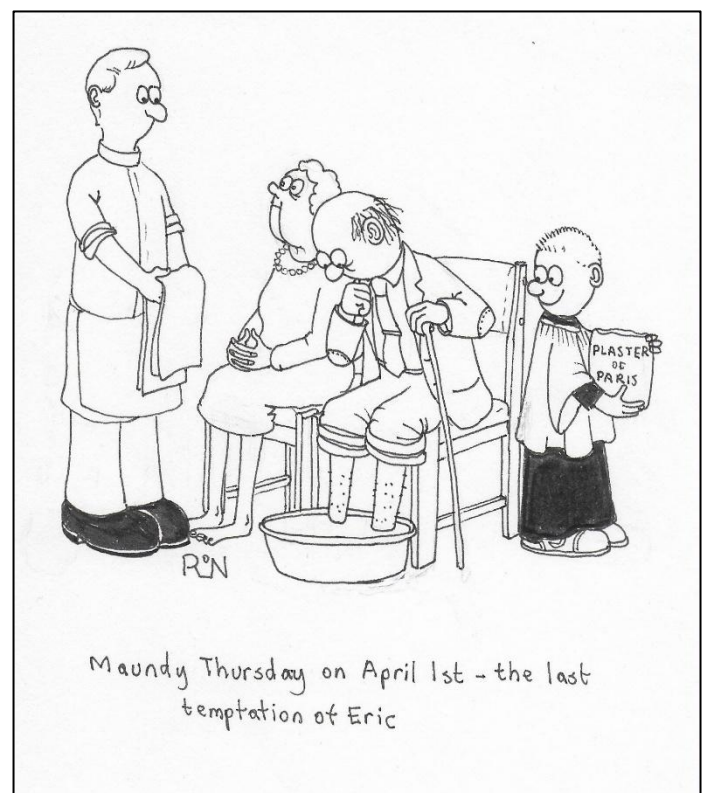
Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible

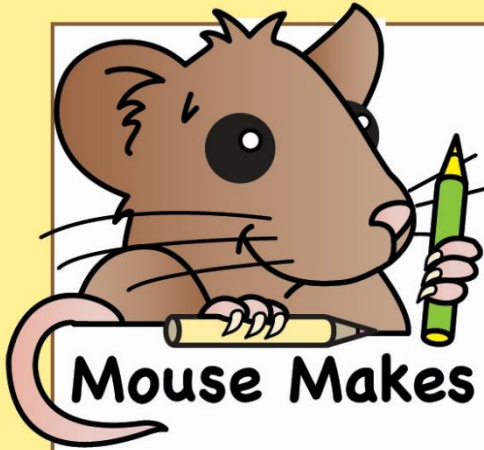
The Book of Lamentations consists of five laments over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah's leading inhabitants to Babylon. Tradition ascribes the book to Jeremiah, who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC. Each lament is an *acrostic* i.e. each verse begins in order with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (except the fifth).

The themes of the laments can be summarised as follows: Jerusalem in Agony (1); the LORD's Anger (2); Judah's complaint against Adversity (3); Jerusalem's Anxiety (4); and Judah's prayer to the Almighty (5). Lamentations portrays the overwhelming sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of the city, along with its Temple with its worship and sacrifices. However, the book is not simply concerned about Jerusalem's destruction, but for the lessons that can be learned from it.

Jeremiah sees the Babylonians as human agents of God's judgment upon Judah's sin. It was God Himself who destroyed the city and temple. However, God's action was not arbitrary, for the people had deliberately sinned against Him and broken their covenant with Him. Although the people's tears and cries for vengeance are understandable, God looks for a sincere heartfelt sorrow from the people. The book begins with lament, '*How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she who once was great among the nations!*' 1:1), but finishes with repentance, '*Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old*' (5:21).

However, in the middle of the book there is a reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness: '*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*' (3:22-23).

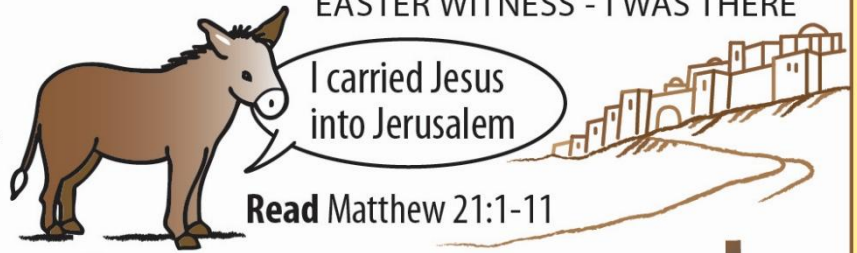




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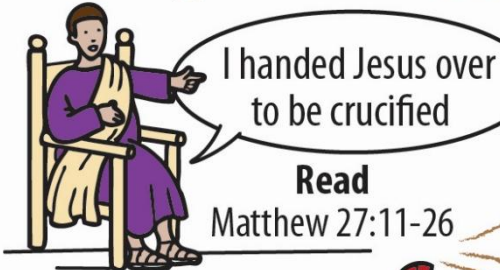
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EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



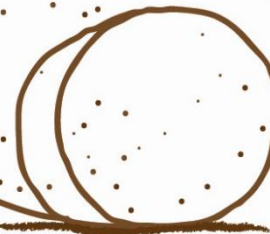
We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb



Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel

Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!



Read Luke 24:13-35

# God in the Sciences

*Editor: Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith*

## The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

*This article is extracted (with permission) from [New Life: Reflections for Lent](#), edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).*

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## Quotes for April

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. - *John Calvin*.

The precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - *Christopher Nesse*

When Jesus bowed His head, And dying took our place, The veil was rent, a way was found to that pure home of grace. - *John Elias*

Christ is now creation's scepter-bearer, as He was once creation's burden-bearer. - *A J Gordon*

# National Parks Fortnight - 4th to 18th April

This month would be a good time to visit at least one of our 15 National Parks, and to appreciate once again the role they play in conserving our environment and encouraging people to enjoy outdoor activities.

Just some highlights:

**Oldest:** The Peak District was designated as the first UK National Park in 1951.

**Largest Park:** Cairngorms National Park in Scotland, covering 1,748 square miles.

**Smallest:** New Forest National Park, at only 150 square miles.

**Most populated:** South Downs National Park, with about 12,000 people living within it.

**Most visited:** Lake District National Park, with about 18 million visitors a year.

**Longest coastline:** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, with a coastline of 186 miles long.

Altogether, there are ten National Parks in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland:  
**England** - Dartmoor, Exmoor, the New Forest, the South Downs, the Broads, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District, the North Yorkshire Moors and Northumberland.

**Wales** - Snowdonia, the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast.

**Scotland** - Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms.

Altogether, the National Parks make up roughly 10% of the total landmass in the UK.

More details at: <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/>

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## Your Easter chocolate can be good for you

It all began in ancient Peru over 5,000 years ago. They liked to sip cacao, the purest form of chocolate. It took many centuries to find its way to Europe, but when it did arrive, it was a big hit. Now, with sugar added, chocolate is one of the most popular treats we know. In the UK we munch our way through about 4.5kg of it, per person, per year.

Dark chocolate is soaring in popularity. If it is of good quality, it will have less sugar and more beneficial plant compounds such as polyphenols and flavanols, which can help protect your brain, your heart and your gut from inflammation, among other things.



### How to get the best from your chocolate:

Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.

Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you already have, let it warm to room temperature for a couple of hours before you eat it).

Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.

If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!

# Thought for the Month

This year during Lent I have been leading a Lent course on Encountering the Bible through Icons. I read several books on Icons to prepare for it, and one reflection by Rowan Williams a former Archbishop of Canterbury set the whole tone of my own personal journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

He said that we look at Jesus in the Icon, but Jesus also looks at us. And He sees us. He sees us as we were meant to be, and He sees what we have made of ourselves.

That thought has been at the center of my prayers this Lent. It reminds me of who I am - made in the image of God, filled with the light of Christ. This is who I am ... and yet. And yet how that image has become distorted, how that light has been hidden. I know that I am not the person that God made me to be. We all know this truth of ourselves. It is where Lent usually begins as we look at ourselves honestly.

And so this Lent I have considered how Jesus sees 'What I have made of myself.' I believe that He sees truly, but compassionately. I also believe that He breathes His Spirit upon us - upon me - to help us (to help me) find forgiveness and healing so that I may better reflect the image of God in my life.

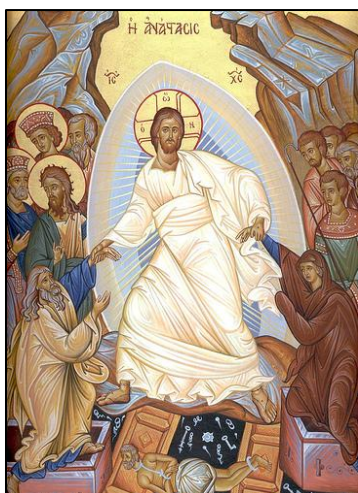
I believe that Christ also sees this world. I believe that He sees the world as it was made to be - God's creation, a holy place, a place of beauty and goodness and plenty. And He sees what we have made of this world.

By our wars and our pollution we treat God's creation as something to be exploited and used. The bountiful resources of God's creation are hoarded by the few while many have less that they need.

Sometimes faith and religion can be private - unconcerned with politics and economics and international relations. But Faith is not private - it is personal, but it is not private. Part of our following Jesus is fulfilled in seeking the healing of creation, the healing of our relationship with God's creation. We are called to be peace-makers and reconcilers, called to see Christ in the other and in every other. This too is a part of our Easter faith.

As followers of Jesus we do not despair, either about ourselves or about creation, for, as St Augustine reminds us, "We are an Easter People." the resurrection, the triumph of Christ is at the heart of our faith and our lives.

May the risen Christ be with this Easter. He says to us as He said to His first followers, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you ... receive the Holy Spirit" Amen.



# Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

## My New Car by Nigel Beeton

My old car was a little tired;  
It failed its MOT!  
So then it was I felt inspired  
To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run  
And helpful as can be!  
But now my troubles have begun –  
It's cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once  
For music on CD  
But now – I must be such a dunce –  
I can't find BBC!

I got it playing from my phone  
By Bluetooth link maybe?  
But then what truly made me moan –  
I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off  
And played some awful sound;  
I tried to speak, I tried to cough  
But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car  
To get from A to B,  
Don't forget you first require  
A technical degree!

---

**Fake?** - "The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine."  
- Winston Churchill.

**Economic definitions** - A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

**Don't delay** - Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

**Cured** - A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

**Sidesman** - Sidesman to newcomer at church door: "Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?"  
Baffled newcomer: "Well, all the way, of course."

**From a church notice-sheet** - This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

**Nice** - The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.



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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



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**£30.00**

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**Luxury Back Treatment (45 minutes)**

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## Children's Society to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show

Children's Society is to have a show garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower show next year, 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

Designed to spotlight the urgent issue of teenage wellbeing in the UK, 'The Children's Society Garden' has been created by landscape architect Patrick Clarke. It draws inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi - celebrating the beauty in imperfection. This nurturing space will offer a message of hope, safety, and connection for young people facing challenges today.

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# The Gardening Year – April

A summary of the months' work.

**Dalias**, April is a very busy time, with much to do and little time available. Wet weekends can cause considerable hold ups in the general works. A dry month can be helpful, but extra care must be taken to see that the young plants do not run short of moisture. Plant out dormant tubas in mild areas towards the end of the month. Prepare the soil for young plants and protect the new shoots from spring frost when they appear above ground. Divide clumps of tubas to increase stock.

**Chrysanthemums**, rake a balance general fertiliser into ground prepared for planting. Carnations and pinks. Apply fertiliser to growing and mature plants. Continue planting pinks and border carnations. Stop modern pinks if necessary. Take action against pest. Stake pinks with branching twigs.

**Trees and shrubs**, plant evergreen shrubs during showery weather. Continue planting pot grown wall shrubs. Water newly planted trees and shrubs in dry weather and mulch with manure or lawn mowings.

**Patio and town gardens**, complete preparation of tubs, boxes and troths for planting. Plant alpines in sinks and troths. Sow seed of hardy annuals.

**House plants** give plants there spring clean, removing dead leaves and washing off dust. Slightly increase the rate of watering again. Give cacti there first watering of the season. Give a liquid house plant fertiliser to all plants you have had for more than 6 months.

**Vegetables** if not already done plant onion sets and sow salad crops. Sow wrinkle seeded peas, main crop carrots, main crop potatoes, globe beetroot plant out late summer cabbages and sow winter cabbages and purple sprouting broccoli.

**Herbs** make a sowing of parsley; also make a small sowing of herbs you like to grow. Plant lavender or rosemary to form a shelter belt.

**Lawns** to improve worn out lawns, mow aerate, apply spring fertiliser, scarify and where necessary, over seed at half an ouns per sq. yard. Apply a light top dressing of loamy soil quarter of an inch deep. Roll the lawn if dry but leave if wet.

**Colin Williams**

# Eat the Seasons – April

Here is a list of foods that should be at their best this month

**Vegetables** - Asparagus, Jersey Royal New Potatoes, Radishes, Spinach, Spring Onions, Watercress,

**Fruit** - Bananas, Grapefruit, Kiwi Fruit, Rhubarb,

**Herbs** - Chives, Coriander, Dill, Rocket, Sorrel,

**Meat** - Wood Pigeon

**Fish** - Conger Eel, Crab, Gurnard, John Dory, Prawns, Salmon, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Whitebait,

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

# ERIC EYRE

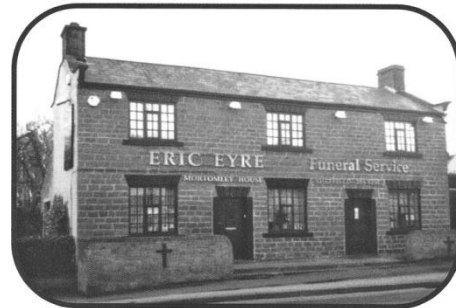
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## Time to Eat – Spring Onions

When raw or very lightly cooked, spring onions impart a wonderfully vibrant yet mild flavour where normal onions would be overpowering. Make some champ by folding chopped spring onions into creamy mashed potatoes - add some grated cheddar if you like - and marvel at how such a simple dish can taste so fantastic. Or combine with ginger to form the soul of a number of classic Chinese and Japanese dishes.

Spring onions are now available throughout the year but the youngest and most tender onions are usually found in spring and early summer.

Onions have been used as a foodstuff since prehistoric times and were cultivated by the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. References to spring onions occur in Chinese literature dating back over two thousand years. Spring Onions (also known as Scallions) are edible vegetables of various species in the genus *Allium*. Spring Onions generally have a milder taste than most onions. Spring Onions have a long, delicate green stem that is white near the root. They have no bulb and a mild, sweet onion flavour. Their close relatives include garlic, shallots, leeks, chives, and Chinese onions. The leaves are eaten both raw and cooked.



Spring Onions produce hollow, tubular, green leaves that grow directly from the bulb, which does not fully develop. This is different to other *Allium* species where bulbs fully develop, such as commercially available onions and garlic. True spring onions look similar to green onions but have a distinctive white bulb at the base.

The names scallion and shallot derive from the Old French *eschalotte*, by way of *eschaloigne*, from the Latin *Ascalōnia caepa* or "Ascalonian onion", a namesake of the ancient Eastern Mediterranean coastal city of Ascalon. Other names used in various parts of the world include spring onion, green onion, table onion, salad onion, onion stick, long onion, baby onion, precious onion, wild onion, yard onion, gibbon and syboe (Scots).

A good source of vitamins B and C, folate and fibre. Onions are relatively high in flavonoids, an antioxidant that is thought to protect against cancer and heart disease.

The smallest, thinnest onions are the youngest and best. Choose onions with straight leaves and white bulbs. Keep in the fridge for up to 4-5 days. To use, trim off the root and any dry or tired looking bits from the green tops. The bulb area can be eaten raw or cooked but the tops are best when chopped and added to a dish just before serving.

Miscellany - In the Tarragona area of Spain a type of spring onion known as *calçots* are the subject of annual festivals (the *calçotadas*) traditionally held in January or February. To start the gastronomic celebrations, *calçots* are grilled on charcoals, wrapped in newspaper and then eaten with a Romesco-style sauce made with nuts, garlic, tomatoes, bread, vinegar, oil and parsley. The feasting continues with grilled meats washed down with plenty of wine. See link for recipe below

<https://www.olivemagazine.com/recipes/healthy/tender-spring-onions-with-charred-romesco/>

**Champ** - [https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/champ\\_67444](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/champ_67444)

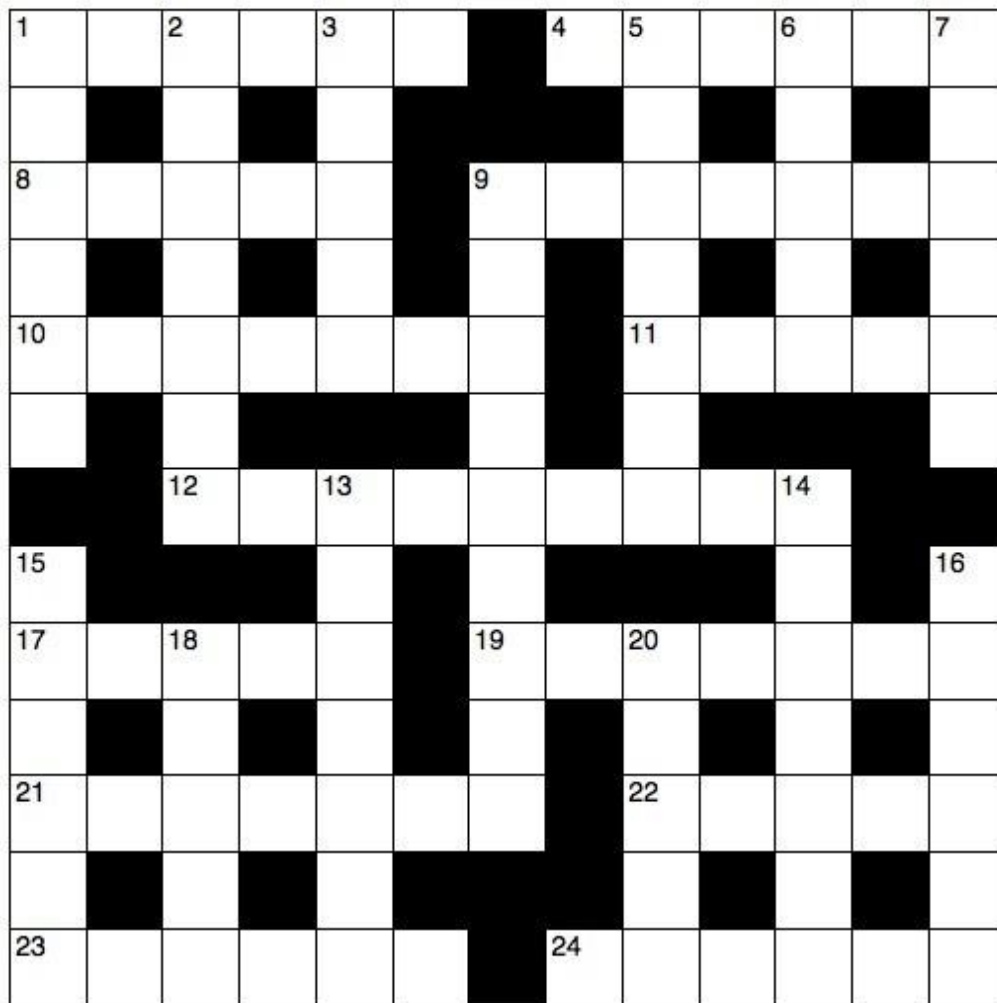
# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe — — it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



## Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,  
 Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.  
 In Jesus' name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

# Chapelton & District Probus Club



11th March brought the Annual Meeting and we gave thanks to Peter McDermott who has been an excellent Chair and welcomed back Robert Woodhead for his second season in the Chair.

Next month, on 8th April we welcome Tim Forman with his Anecdotes from an Extraordinary Life (so Far!).

Our first trip of the New Year was to the AVRO museum in Manchester which took place on Thursday 19th March with the fascinating history of the famous aircraft company which designed and manufactured the Lancaster Bomber and only ten years later, the Vulcan Bomber. There was much more to see than we had time for. Following lunch, we moved on to Bramall Hall with its Tudor manor house and gardens in Stockport.

The 2nd visit is scheduled for 18th May and will be to the JCB factory to look at the extremely successful British company famous for its range of machinery for use in construction and farming. The trip is already full although people may be able to visit on the same day if places at JCB remain available.

Further visits under consideration include an overnight trip to the naval dockyards at Portsmouth and the RHS Bridgewater Garden on the outskirts of Manchester.

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 contact the Secretary, Trevor Winslow (see below).

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

8th April – Tim Forman – Anecdotes from an extraordinary life (so far!)

13th May – Mike Ogden - Skyscrapers

10th June – Stuart Atkins – Great American Songbook

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

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

*Andrew Robinson*

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# Prayers and Poems Page

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*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: Pondering on the Easter story made me think of the utter despair and hopelessness that Jesus' disciples and followers must have felt during those dark hours before morning:*

## **Easter Dawn**

Creation holds collective breath  
In darkness, cold and deep;  
Has hope and joy been claimed by death?  
Has love been laid to sleep?  
The solid seal, the heavy stone  
The chill of Friday's gloom  
Leave faith to flicker all alone  
Beside a borrowed tomb.

But, as the night begins to fray  
The soldiers faint with fright!  
An angel rolls the stone away  
At dawn's first glint of light.  
No linen shroud can hold Him now  
The grave has lost its prize,  
No thorns are seen upon His brow  
As Love and Triumph rise!

Let hallelujahs wake the earth!  
Let bell-sound rend the skies!  
For Christ has won our second birth  
By His triumphant rise!  
The empty tomb, the open door  
Proclaim the darkness gone;  
Death was defeated evermore  
On Easter's glorious dawn!

By Nigel Beeton

---

## **The way**

When Jesus bowed His head,  
And dying took our place,  
The veil was rent, a way was found  
To that pure home of grace.

By John Elias

---

## **Amazing**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

By Isaac Watts

## **Poor Thomas – between Sundays**

I'm lost and bewildered,  
All hope is now gone.  
I cannot imagine  
How life can go on.

My mind's in a turmoil,  
I can't understand  
How this could have happened  
To so good a man.

I'm tortured by thoughts of  
Him hung on that tree;  
The thorns and the nails;  
In His face – agony.

It happened so quickly,  
I still can't believe  
He's dead and He's buried,  
What did that achieve?

My friends are now saying  
That Jesus has risen,  
'We've seen Him and heard Him,  
He's out of death's prison!'

I'd like to believe them,  
I'm sure you would too,  
But claims like they're making  
Just cannot be true.

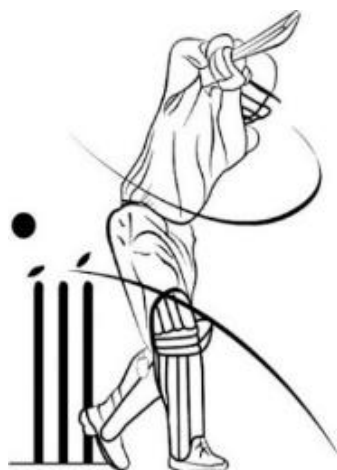
Whilst no-one likes losing  
A valuable friend,  
There's no point pretending  
The end's not the end.

They think they have met Him,  
But senses deceive;  
Come. Show me His wounds, then  
Perhaps I'd believe.

By Howard Webber



# Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The autumn treatment and significant rain on the lower part of the field has resulted in the ground being in very good condition for the start of the 2026 season.

Over the close season, improvements have been made to the pavilion with solar panels and back-up batteries, new LED lighting throughout and various other improvements including an impressive new wall covering with added sound proofing and improved groundwork around the pavilion.

For 2026, we will miss Biswick Kapala who has moved to play for Tickhill but are pleased that Muhammad Qaisar Ashraf will be staying for another season and we welcome Zain Attique, a wicketkeeper and batter from Caribbean Cricket Club in Ecclesfield, Abraham Shahil, a young bowler

from Whiston, Nathan Swift, a batter from Warmsworth and George Cowan, an opening bowler from Doncaster whose Grandfather Mike played for Yorkshire.

There will be a get-ready day on Saturday 4th April at 10.00 where all help on site will be most welcome. The season starts on 18th April when the 2nd XI will be playing Wickersley 2nd XI at home and the 1st XI will be away at Wickersley.

**Senior Matches at Cinder Hill Lane (12 noon)** (see website for other home games for 3rd XI, juniors and ladies)

18 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Wickersley 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
25 <sup>th</sup> April	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Appleby Frodingham 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Conisbrough 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
9 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Tickhill 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
16 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Cawthorne 1 <sup>st</sup> XI

Contact: - [whitleyhall@yc-spl.co.uk](mailto:whitleyhall@yc-spl.co.uk) whitleyhall.play-cricket.com

**Andrew Robinson**

## International Day for Street Children - 12th April

If you have children, you would find it unbearable to think of them abandoned and alone on the streets of a big city, struggling each day to simply survive.

Which is why the International Day for Street Children is held each year, to raise awareness about the millions of children worldwide who must rely on the streets for survival. Major international Christian charities that reach out to street children include:

Street Child - <https://street-child.org/churches-for-street-child/>

Stand By Me - <https://www.standby.me/go/christian-charity>

Compassion UK - <https://web.compassionuk.org/about-us/who-we-are-old/>

Samaritan's Purse - <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/childrens-ministries/>

## 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 - Chloe Beevers  
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 0771 481 3503

### **Friends of Ecclesfield Library**

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

### **Ecclesfield Cubs**

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

### **Ecclesfield Beavers**

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

### **Ecclesfield Scouts**

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

### **Whitley Hall Cricket Club**

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

### **Chapelton and District PROBUS Club**

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month  
in Grenoside Community Centre  
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome  
Contact the Secretary: Trevor Winslow  
[chapelton.probus@gmail.com](mailto:chapelton.probus@gmail.com)  
We are now face to face see  
[www.chapelton-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapelton-probus.org.uk)

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



	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Vicar:</b> Revd. Tim Gill	ttimgill@aol.com	257 0002
<b>Church Wardens</b> Ann Hackett Michael Waldron		
<b>Church Office</b> Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00 pm Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 pm	office.stmarys.ecclesfield@googlemail.com	245 0106
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/">https://stmarysecclesfield.org.uk/</a>	
<b>Groups:</b>	<b>Times and Days:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Choir Practice in Church</b> Contact: Lynda Pearce	7 pm on Friday Practice in Church	208 3500
<b>Music Group</b> Contact: Andrea Whittaker	7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church	246 0746
<b>Mother's Union in Gatty Hall</b> Contact: Maureen Lambert	1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month	246 9690
<b>Ecclesfield Ladies Group</b> Contact: Elaine Heeley	2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall	07946 823284
<b>Bell Ringers</b> Contact: Phil Hirst	7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry	286 2766
<b>Gatty Hall Bookings</b>		0780 307 8223
<b>For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar</b>		
<b>Magazine e-mail:</b>	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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Colour</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Maundy Thursday	White or Gold
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Good Friday	No colour
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Day	White or Gold
12 <sup>th</sup> April	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Easter	White
19 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	White
26 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	White



**Support St. Mary's by donating today**



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### **Why your donation counts**

Ecclesfield Church does not get any funding from the government or local authority. All its income comes from the generosity of people like yourself who give to support its services and help maintain the building for future generations.

Whether you give regularly or as a 'one-off', you can increase your donation by Gift Aiding it. This allows us to recover the basic rate tax paid on your gift, for every £ 10 you give the government gives another £ 2.50, making your gift worth £ 12.50