

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine June

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First Words

It is June already, and a busy month ahead!

On **Wednesday 3rd June at 6pm**, **The Seeking Heart**, Contemplative Prayer and Meditation for all.

On **Sunday 7th June at 10am** we welcome Beth Burras to preach and to **License Chris Leach as Focal Minister** at St Mary's. Please pray for Chris as she prepares to take up this role in our Church.

On **Monday 8th June** at around noon Tim will be meeting Professor Hugh Wilmott to look at the ancient Cross-shafts and to discuss where they might better be situated.

On **Wednesday 10th June at 11am** there will be a **funeral** in Church followed by burial in Priory Road cemetery. Later that day, at **4pm** the **Friends of Ecclesfield Church** steering group will meet in Church. At **7.30pm** that evening it is the **Archdeacon's Visitation at Sheffield Cathedral**.

Saturday 13th June, 9am Prayer Breakfast followed at **10am** by the **Bereavement Cafe**.

On **Sunday 14th June at 10am** it is our monthly **Prayer & Praise** Service.

On **Tuesday 16th June at 2pm** Tim has a meeting with the Diocesan Finance team to look at sources of funding for the Church Tower.

On **Wednesday 17th June at 2pm** we meet in Church to plan services & hymns for July & August; and at **6pm The Seeking Heart**, Contemplative Prayer and Meditation for all.

On **Thursday 18th June at 10.30am**, after the mid-week Communion, Tim will visit **Nightingale nursing home** for a service.

On **Thursday 30th June at 2pm** the monthly **Bible Study Group** will meet.

For more information about these events please speak to Tim.

A Peaceful mind in June

June is a time when we tend to spend more time outside, and probably see more of other people...

A man that has friends must show himself friendly... *Proverbs 18:24*

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. - *Leviticus 19:18,34*

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! - *Psalms 133:1*

Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. - *Proverbs 17:9*

Kate Guest

Counselling & Psychotherapy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact me via email or telephone to book an appointment.



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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 Revd Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church monuments

'He gave us eyes to see them' – Church Monuments

This month as we continue our walk through the church building, we focus on monuments. George Herbert has a poem on this theme which contrasts the body we see represented in marble, but now consigned to dust, with the soul released to perform its eternal devotions. Such monuments are often a reminder of the frailty of life and the certainty of death, symbolised by an hourglass or a skull or classical urns.

In St Cuby's Church, Duloe in Cornwall there is a fine slate memorial of an Elizabethan lady, Anna Coffyn, depicted in a richly embroidered dress with gloves and a prayer book, ready for church. Underneath are the skull and crossbones, a *memento mori*, a reminder that death has visited even this elegant lady. That sign of death can come as a shock to us when we are committed so much to living and getting the most out of life today. Death intrudes violently into the world we would like.



But in St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle in Herefordshire, there is a monument that tells us something of the serenity of death. It is the effigy of Blanche Mortimer, who died in 1347. The church is filled with superb monuments, but this one has its own distinct and moving beauty. The carving of her dress shows buttoned sleeves and a wimple, while one hand holds a rosary. She impresses us with her loveliness, even in the midst of her death.

Leonardo da Vinci wrote, 'While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.' As we dedicate ourselves to God in this life, we can trust with Blanche Mortimer in the 14th century that His will is for us to be with Him forever. This life is not just our preparation for death: it is our schooling for heaven, and life in heaven means life with God.

Some of the great questions of life

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint, he has to touch it?

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If a firefighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Sunday 3rd May

Theo Mark Stephenson, Ovie Arthur Fletcher

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

Weddings:

Saturday 16th May

Jim Alexander Houseley & Briony Hannah Colton

Friday 29th May

Joshua Mitchell & Kelly-Marie Mawkes

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

Funerals:

Monday 11th May

Linda Briggs

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



MU Meeting 6th May 2026

Our visitor today was Pat Webster, the Parish Evangelist from St Saviors High Green. Pat started on her journey to becoming a Christian in 1986. Before that she went to a Pentecostal church with her mother in law, but in 1986 her sister asked her to go with her to St Saviours and her journey began. And what a journey.

Realising that "God loves Me" changed her life and she has never looked back. Pat regularly goes on missions, visiting Cornwall, Bristol, Kent and Wales to name a few, although she said that she is getting too old to sleep on the floor!! Missions mean that they walk in faith with very little, just £4 a day is allowed in case they want to treat someone to a coffee, otherwise they rely on help from people they speak to.

Pat says they have never gone without; food and shelter is often provided from unlikely sources. Maureen commented that Pat is a dangerous person, with her chatting to people on her missions and her ability to persuade. As an example, she met a woman escaping domestic abuse who went on to run three charity shops and a charity for the homeless. Pat is obviously very persuasive.

Her next mission begins in May 2027 starting in Barrow in Furness. We wish Pat an enjoyable and fulfilling mission.

Thank you Pat for sharing your Christian journey over the last 40 years.

Andrea x

Prayer for the Month

St Patrick's Breastplate *(Extracts)*

*I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation....*

*Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

*I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.*

This ancient Celtic Prayer is traditionally attributed to St Patrick, the 5th century patron saint of Ireland. There is a well-known, though sadly little-sung hymn version of this prayer.

It takes the form of a Druidic prayer for protection on a journey, but this pre-Christian form has been thoroughly 'baptised' and now it has become a prayer for the protection of the Holy Trinity on the journey of our life, our pilgrimage on earth.

It is particularly appropriate in these days after the feast of the Trinity (Sunday 31st June).

It is a prayer to pray when we face difficulties or when life is hard. It places our hope in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and it is to God that we entrust ourselves and those we love.

The Christian Faith does not promise that we will not face hardship and troubles, or that God will intervene to prevent them. It is simply this - that God is with us in all things and that no foe, no hardship or distress, no illness or strife, not even death itself can ever take us from God's hands.

We are safe with God, the God who we meet in Scripture, the God who meets us in Christ in all things, in life and in death and in eternity. It is a prayer in which we entrust ourselves to God now and for ever.

May God, Father, Son and Holy spirit be with you. Amen.

Andrew Jones

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The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony

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

'They're called deadly because they lead to the death of the soul.' (Richard Newhauser).

This month we are looking at *Gluttony*. Which food do we find hardest to resist?

It is reported that 66% of adults in the UK are overweight or obese. Gluttony is indulgence to excess, usually involving food, but can also include drinking, screen time, shopping etc.

Paul warns us about the dangers of gluttony when he refers to those whose minds are set on earthly things: *'their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.'* (Philippians 3:19). Our struggle with gluttony is often the outward sign of a spiritual hunger for acceptance, love, or self-worth. This desire for satisfaction cannot be satisfied by food alone.

How can we overcome gluttony?

Glorify God with your body: 'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?' (1 Corinthians 6:19). Paul reminds us that our bodies belong to God; as temples of the Holy Spirit, we should use them to glorify God. While we have freedom in the things we consume, we are also called to honour God in our actions.

Exercise self-control: 'live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16). Paul goes on to list self-control as one of the Fruit of the Spirit (5:23). As we examine ourselves and identify those areas where we lack self-control, we can entrust them to God, asking for the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome gluttony.

We recognise that true satisfaction is only found in a desire for God alone: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

Miscellaneous observations on modern life...

Friend: what you call a person who dislikes the same people you dislike.

Gentleman: one who holds the door open while his wife carries in the groceries.

Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Prosperity: something private citizens create, for which politicians take credit.

Politician: the fellow who shakes your hand before the election and shakes you after the election.

Reformer: one who makes his associates feel miserable about their pleasures.

Do not confuse a reckless driver with a wreckless driver.

We always like those who admire us, but we do not always like those whom we admire. - *La Rochefoucauld*

One learns in life to keep silent and draw one's own confusions. - *Cornelia Skinner*

At a certain age some people's minds close up; they live on their intellectual fat. - *W L Phelps*

The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children. - *C S Darrow*

Reflected Faith Series: The Creed (Part 2)

The Revd Dr Jo White considers...

Last month we considered where the Creed is placed within the service. This month let's think about what is in the Creed(s).

It's important to know that the earliest known Creed, which is still substantially used today was first found in a letter from around AD 341. This is known today as the Apostles' Creed because it is widely thought to have been originally written by the Apostles themselves.

Every phrase in it can be noted as derived directly from biblical texts and it is the compilation that has taken so much thought and discussion until we arrive at the versions we use in churches today.

Because the Creed succinctly includes everything Christians believe, it unites us all in those truths; whichever Christian denomination you choose to worship within.

So, establishing wording that expresses the faith of all Christians has been the challenge.

Protestants sometimes wonder at the phrase, 'the holy catholic Church' being included, but the word 'catholic' here has the meaning of 'universal' rather than denominational.

We are ALL united in our basic faith.

This is what makes us Christians and distinguishes us from other 'churches', whether they have the name of Jesus in their title or not.

Only Churches which acknowledge and include one of the recognised creeds can join the international organisation of 'Churches Together'.

Essentially, this is a sure way to know that you are at a Christian service.

In more recent years the Church has authorized several Affirmations of Faith which contain the key tenants of faith but are shorter and, if you like, simpler to understand.

This month - Because the Creed has to be universally accepted within established churches, deviations from the texts are not permitted. However, just for the joy of thinking ... what would you include in a statement of faith if you were drafting it? Which friends would you want to include on your 'committee'?

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 3rd June & Wednesday 17th June.

For more information see Tim.

All welcome



St James the Least of All

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

On the struggle for life in a rectory

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Our British bumblebees

Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

Early Bumblebee: - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

Common Carder Bee: - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

Tree Bumblebee: - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

Red-tailed Bumblebee: - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.

Garden Bumblebee: - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

Buff-tailed bumblebee: - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.

Need total darkness to sleep?

According to followers of 'The Dutch Method', it is good to sleep with your curtains open.

That way, in the morning your bedroom slowly floods with natural light, which coincides with your circadian rhythm, the internal body clock that regulates your sleep cycle. Natural light also stops the production of melatonin (your sleep hormone) and triggers a natural rise in cortisol. That lets you know that the new day has begun. It is considered a gentle way to wake up.

Nevertheless, others of us prefer the curtains to be shut, and need pitch black to sleep.

Whichever you prefer, here are some tips on sleep and waking up.

~ Natural light in the morning is good for you. It is better to go for a walk at the start of each day, rather than to head straight for your phone and computer.

~ Melatonin levels decline as we get older, which makes it harder to fall and stay asleep.

~ Our body clock can shift to earlier, leaving us sleepier at night, but more awake earlier in the morning.

~ As we age, we become more sensitive to disruption during the night, and things like stress, life changes, noise or light can have a bigger impact.

~ A good routine before sleep is essential. Aim for bed at the same time, empty your head with a to-do list for tomorrow, clear your thoughts, and relax.



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What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Colossians

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

This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: *'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us?* This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: *'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority'* (2:9-10).

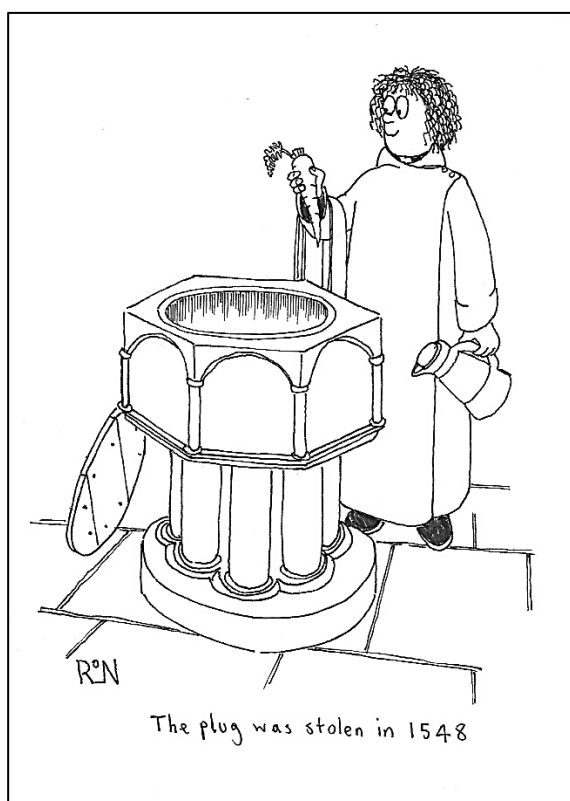
He affirms that Jesus is:

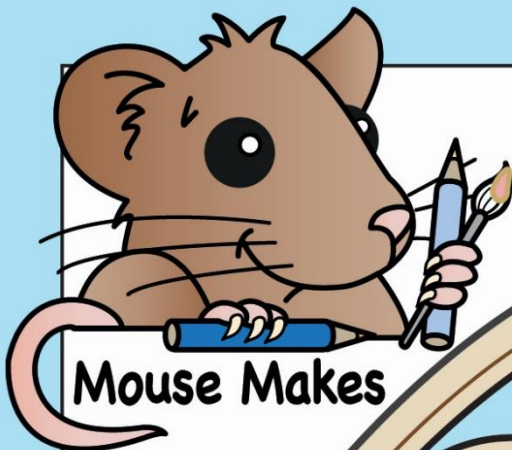
Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18).

Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).

Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

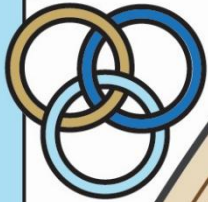
In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.








"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
 love of **GOD** and the
 fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
 with you all."

2 Corinthians
 13:14



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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

Re-joining the Choir: Why people are the helpers, not priests, of Creation

Urbanisation has taken us away from the rest of Creation, often reducing it in our eyes to a resource that we draw on when we feel like it, or need it. But Jesus said the stones would start praising Him if people didn't (Luke 19:40), and in the Psalms and Job, all of Creation is praising God. There is no hint here that people are needed to enable Creation's praise to happen. The singing is metaphorical, but it draws attention to fact that all creatures praise God by being themselves. They don't only praise with their 'voices', but with everything else they do as well: eating, running, hopping, grooming, reproducing, and so on (which is a reminder to us that our whole lives can be an act of praise to God).

Our isolation from Creation's praise can add to our sense that the whole world revolves around us and our needs. In reality, Creation is God-centred and 'His name alone is exalted' (Psalm 148:13). The value of Creation for God is not necessarily linked to its value for us – it is of value to God because He made it, He cares for it, and it praises Him.

Genesis 1:28 says that we must "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground". To rule wisely we need to get hold of the fact that, although we have a special responsibility, we are creatures alongside all the other creatures. One way to ground ourselves in this idea is to re-join the choir and worship God together with every other living and non-living thing on earth.

Rather than being needed to help Creation praise God, we can actually rely on it to help us in our worship. Sharing God's delight in Creation, we can learn to delight in God. In return, the best thing we can do is to let living things recover their full fruitfulness as much as possible so they can praise God fully. We are called to a life of humble service, taking care of each other and everything else on this planet. In this way, we can choose to see other creatures as they are, pointing our attention away from themselves towards God – until we are caught up in their praise of Him.

21st June - Summer Solstice, longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol* + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

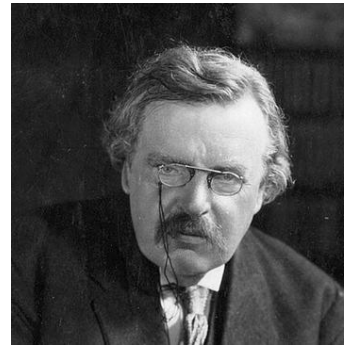
While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here is a Christian alternative that honours the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun - St Francis of Assisi

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

Remembering G K Chesterton

Ninety years ago, on 14th June 1936, G K Chesterton died at his home in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, he is remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.



Gilbert Keith Chesterton was born in Kensington, London, to an estate agent father and a Swiss-French mother. He was educated at St Paul's School before studying art at the Slade School and literature at University College, London. He did not get a degree, and his earliest ambition was to be an artist.

A conspicuous figure in both height and girth, he eventually took to writing, producing in all about 80 books, several hundred poems, 200 short stories, 4000 essays (mostly newspaper columns), and several plays. His literary preoccupations were initially journalism and social commentary, then literary criticism and lastly religion.

He was an apologist who spoke out for orthodox Christianity, initially from an Anglican standpoint, but after 1922 as a Roman Catholic. Using paradox, a sense of wonder and imaginative wit, he described the Christian faith as the one logical answer to life's mysteries. His seminal book, *Orthodoxy*, written when he was an Anglican, was a key factor in the conversion of C S Lewis.

Chesterton married Frances Blogg in 1901, but the couple were unable to have children. A writer herself, Frances encouraged her husband and acted as his personal assistant. He survived a life-threatening illness in 1914 affecting his heart and kidneys and was unconscious for a long period before recovering, though he never regained full vitality.

His most widely known invented character was Father Brown, kindly protagonist of a series of detective novels later televised and recently rerun. Father Brown is an unprepossessing figure with a sharp mind who understands the intricacies of evil through hearing many confessions.

Quotes with our Christian faith in mind...

All but God is changing day by day. - *C Kingsley*

God cares not for phrases but for affections. - *J Hall*

God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame. - *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

God loves His children as well in adversity as in prosperity. - *T Watson*

Grace is the sum and substance of New Testament faith. - *J I Packer*

History is the long story of man trying to be God. - *V Havner*

The great of this world are those who simply loved God more than others did. - *A W Tozer*

The noblest revenge is to forgive. - *T Fuller*

We expect our young people to lay down their lives for our nation, but most of us are not willing to lay down our bank accounts for God. - *Anon*

We trust not because 'a god' exists, but because THIS God exists. - *C S Lewis*

Thought for the Month

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Sarah Mullally, has recently expressed her shock at the series of antisemitic attacks in the UK in recent months. She said, "This is not a problem for the Jewish community to solve. It's on all of us - every single member of our society - to call out anti-Semitism whenever we see it, and to oppose it without hesitation or qualification."

The rise in attacks on the Jewish community in Britain is part of the increasing division and fragmentation that we see today. We are at a dangerous time in society when hatred of those who differ from us or those with whom we disagree has become so widespread - fuelled by toxic social media.

I strongly oppose the recent actions of the Israeli Government and military, but I do not blame or hold all Jewish people responsible. Similarly I strongly oppose the actions of Hamas, but do not blame or hold all Muslim people responsible for them.

As a Christian I support all innocent people under attack, whatever their religion or nationality. I believe that in Christ God is at the heart of the suffering of our world, all suffering of all people.

As a Christian who deplores anti-Semitism, I do have to acknowledge that Church teachings over the centuries have fuelled the hatred of Jewish people. When the Church or Christians teach such things they are betraying Christ, who was, of course Himself, Jewish.

As followers of Jesus we are called to look beyond the surface, to see each person that we encounter as a child of God, made in God's image. More than this, every person has a call on our compassion whoever they may be.

Jesus was once asked to define 'who is my neighbour, who is the person who has a legitimate call on my compassion?' He was asked this by a lawyer who was wanting to know the limit, the boundaries to his responsibility for others. As usual, when asked a question instead of giving an answer, Jesus told a story.

In the story that we call 'The Good Samaritan' my neighbour turns out to be the person that I am able to help, regardless of their religion or nationality. In fact Jesus makes the hero of his parable a despised foreigner who follows a hated religion.

As followers of Jesus we are called to stand with and support our Jewish neighbour in the face of anti-Semitism, just as we are called to stand with and support our Muslim or Sikh or Hindu or atheist neighbour if they face persecution and attack.

As Jesus said in his parable of the judgement of the nations in Matthew chapter 25, "Whatever you have done for the least of these, my brothers and sisters ... whatever you have refused to do for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done, or refused to do, for me."

Please pray for a healing of the divisions in our nation, that we will be able to see the neighbour beyond the label.

God bless, Tim.

Editor's Humour & Philosophy Page

Wrens are usually solitary birds but when it's cold they will sometimes huddle together for warmth. Some people call this a 'herd' but technically it's known as a 'scene'.



That's because chilled wren should be 'scene' and not 'herd'...

Going somewhere - older people often go to another room to get something, and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. This is not a memory problem. It is God's way of helping older people get more exercise

Moon - For centuries, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. But then astronauts visited it, and they say that the moon is really a big hard rock. Well, that's what happens to cheese, when you leave it out.

Getting around - I love flying. I've been to almost as many places as my luggage.

Golf - Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."
Caddie: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

Motoring holiday - Lost Husband: Where are we now? Wife: Halfway between Paris and Marseilles, dear. Husband: Don't bother me with details. What country are we in?

For the wicked - A little boy had been very naughty and as a punishment his mother told him he would go without his favourite vegetable. He sat down for a meal, and his mother served, carrots, corn, - - and ? "It's no use waiting," said his mother, " I told you, no peas for the wicked."

A lesson in lies - A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

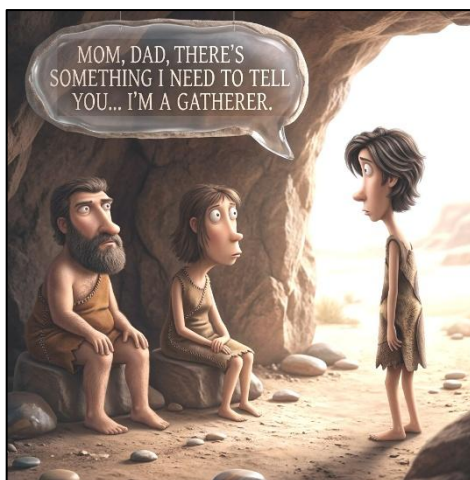
The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

Quiet prayers - The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice.

"I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

My dog just got a haircut and now he looks like he gave up drinking and got his life together



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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

Children's Society Wins Gold! at Chelsea Flower Show

This year their garden, designed by Patrick Clarke, won a gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026. Described as a nurturing sanctuary, the garden offers teenagers a sense of safety, peace and connection. With the show now over, the garden will be relocated to their youth club in Leighton Buzzard, where it will live on as a permanent wellbeing space, providing a place where young people can feel safe, seen and supported for years to come. Designed to spotlight the urgent issue of teenage wellbeing in the UK, 'The Children's Society Garden' was created by landscape architect Patrick Clarke. It drew 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 – June

Dahlias plant out young dahlia's now and pinch out the tips when they start to grow to make them bushy and tie them to stakes. When aphids appear, control with insecticide. Apply a mulch to conserve moisture and prevent weeds.

Iris tie flowering stems of bearded irises to canes and cut blooms for indoor decoration. Cut back stems after flowering and top dress poor soils with a general fertiliser. In July - August dress summer flowering Dutch irises with nitrochalk when flower buds show.

Patios and town gardens water containers at least once a day, if not top-dressed with damp compost. Remove dead flowers and discard plants past their best.

House plants open some windows on humid days to allow plants to benefit from this humidity. Stand plants outside to benefit from light warm rain. Spray the plants lightly with clean tepid water when humidity is too low. Water plants before you go away for a few days and remove them from sunny windows. control aphids and other pests with insecticide or sponge the leaves with soapy water.

Water plants and pools in sultry weather keep the water oxygenated by occasionally adding fresh water from a hose and spray. Watch for appearance of aphids and deal with them immediately, being careful how chemicals are used where fish are present. Continue to remove algae before large masses form. Reduce the growth of surface plants to allow light to penetrate to under water plants.

Onion family some of the smaller onion family such as garlic and chives and leeks are ideal for containers. You can plant leek's garlic, shallots and spring onions in containers because they are shallow rooting.

Garlic is nice and easy to take care of.as long as the pot doesn't become waterlogged and you keep weeds away your garlics should grow well. Water if the soil becomes too dry otherwise leave it to take care of itself. Garlic is ready when the leaves begin to shrivel and turn yellowish brown.

Colin Williams

Eat the Seasons – June

Here is a list of foods in season those in **bold** should be at their best this month

Vegetables - **Artichoke, Asparagus, Aubergine, Broad Beans**, Carrots, Cauliflower, **Courgettes**, Cucumber, Fennel, Kale, Leeks, Mangetout, **New Potatoes**, Peas, **Radishes**, **Runner Beans**, **Spring Onions**, **Turnips**, **Watercress**,

Herbs - **Basil, Chives, Coriander, Dill, Elderflowers, Mint, Parsley (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leaf), Rocket, Rosemary, Sorrel, Tarragon**,

Fruit - Bananas, **Cherries, Gooseberries, Grapefruit, Kiwi Fruit**, Passion Fruit, Rhubarb, **Strawberries**,

Meat - Beef, Chicken, Lamb, Pork, **Wood Pigeon**

Fish - Cockles, **Cod, Conger Eel, Crab, Gurnard, Haddock, Herring, John Dory**, Langoustine, **Lobster, Mackerel**, Oysters, **Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Salmon, Sardines, Sea Bream, Sea Trout, Shrimp, Skate, Whelks, Whitebait**,

Visit - www.eattheseasons.co.uk

ERIC EYRE

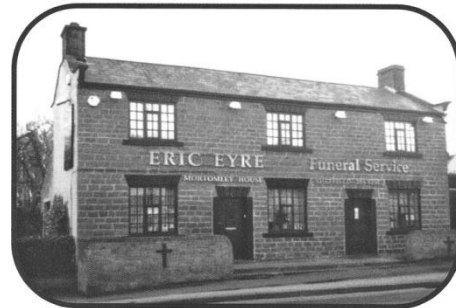
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Time to Eat – Courgettes

In cafés and simple restaurants across the UK, courgettes are frequently (mis)used to make a poor excuse of a ratatouille or the sort of unappetizing vegetable 'lasagne' only ever eaten by desperate vegetarians with no other menu choice.



Courgettes (known as *zucchini* to Italians and Americans) are in fact beautifully tender vegetables with a fresh, delicate flavour. Try one of the fantastic recipes below and start the fight back against courgette abuse.

The origin of the courgette is not entirely clear, partly because common usage of the word courgette often relates to plants that transcend botanical classifications. It was not widely eaten in Europe before the twentieth century and some sources claim that it was developed from the squash, first brought to Europe from the Americas during Christopher Columbus' crusades. Squash have been cultivated in Central America for more than five thousand years and courgettes play a prominent role in Mexican cuisine today. As with the aubergine, the courgette was brought to the attention of Britons in the mid-twentieth century thanks to the writings of Elizabeth David.

A member of the *cucurbit* family, courgettes are related to watermelons, gherkins and cucumbers. Courgettes are usually marrows harvested at a young age, although the mature fruit of certain varieties of squash may also be sold as courgettes.

Smaller, younger courgettes have more flavour. Look for firm, heavy-feeling courgettes with unblemished bright and glossy skins. They will keep for up to a week in the fridge. Wash well and trim both ends. The courgette is a versatile ingredient and can be baked, fried, steamed or stewed according to recipe. Courgettes have a high water content and are low in calories. They are a source of folate, potassium, and vitamins A and C.

Courgette flowers can often be found on the menus of French, Greek and Italian restaurants. Smaller flowers are given a tempura treatment (fried in a light batter); larger flowers are typically stuffed with tomatoes and herbs or goat's cheese.

Courgette plants are easy to grow and fruit abundantly over the summer months – you can expect three or four fruits a week from one plant in good weather. Also known as zucchini, courgettes (*Cucurbita pepo*) are tender, so are best sown indoors in spring, for transplanting outdoors in early summer.

See RHS: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/courgettes/grow-your-own>

Courgette gratin - The Hairy Bikers

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/courgette_gratin_04270

Ratatouille – Jenny White

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/ratatouille_19540

Courgette fritters - Rachel Phipps

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/courgettefritters_87587

Stuffed Zucchini with Egg-Lemon Sauce - Alexandra's Kitchen

<https://gratsi.com/blogs/all/stuffed-zucchini-with-egg-lemon-sauce>

Prayer for June 2026

Father,

Here we are in June – a beautiful month and a month when we remember a beautiful follower of Yours, Barnabas. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith and he encouraged Your people to remain true to You in what must have been dangerous times.

Lord, in these dangerous days, when so much seems alien and out of control, how we all need to be encouraged to be steadfast in our faith and in our lives.

How we need to remember that You are our faithful, sovereign Lord; that You never change; that in Jesus You have won the victory over sin and death. If we put our trust in Jesus, we are secure for all eternity.

Thank You for the example of Barnabas. Help us to be encouraged and to encourage others. May we enjoy June in all its beauty, knowing that nothing can separate us from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

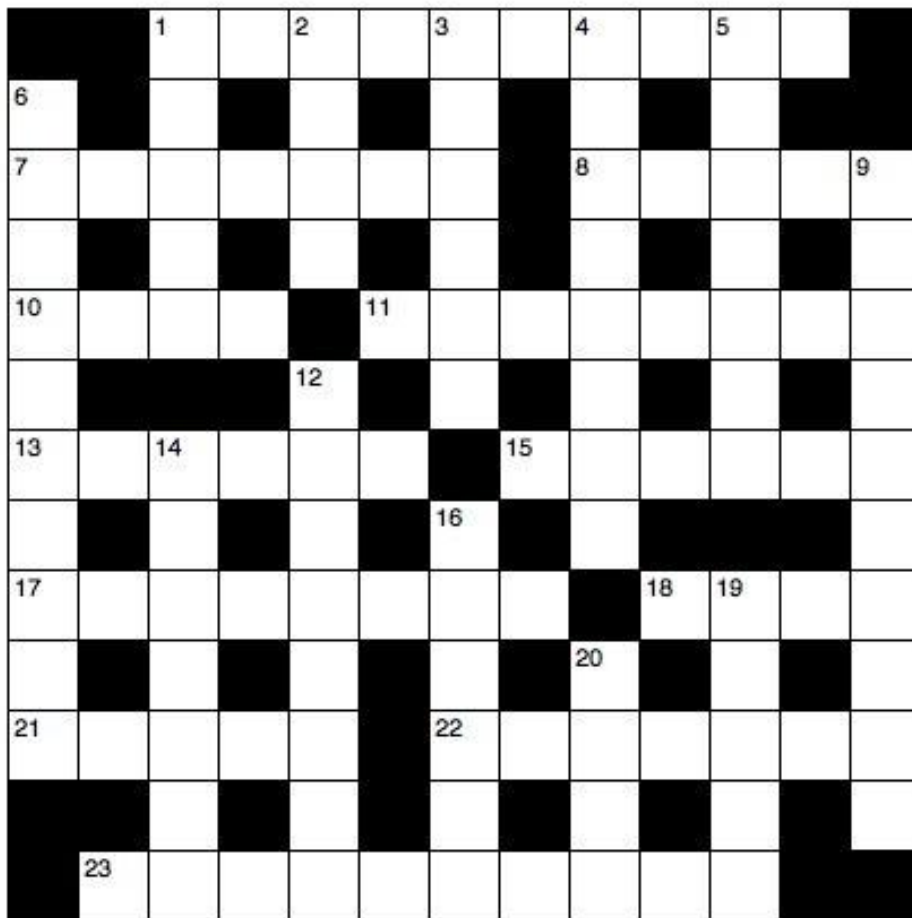
- 1** Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7** Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8** The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10** 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11** Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13** 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15** Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17** 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18** Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21** 'As for man, his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22** Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23** Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Clues Down

- 1** 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2** 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3** Mob ten (anag.) (6)

- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

Solution is on Page 7



Late for Church

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could go to church. As she ran, she prayed, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"*

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her dress dirty. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me again, either!"*

Chapelton & District Probus Club



On 13th May, we welcomed Mike Ogden – who gave a very interesting presentation on the history of Skyscrapers. Starting in the UK in the 18th century when any building higher than a church and about 4 storeys was unusual, Mike covered the race in New York and Chicago to what exists now, including the famous “Flat Iron” building where workers and the public considered that anything above 8 storeys might be damaging to health, through to the current world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai standing at 828 meters (2,717 feet), almost twice the height of the 102 storey Empire State at 1,454 feet (443 m).

Our 2nd trip this year was on May 18th 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 next visit will be to the RHS Bridgewater Gardens on the outskirts of Manchester on 5th August. Possible future visits including overnight stays are in the planning stage.

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).

Our next speaker on 10th June will be Stuart Atkins who will return to talk and sing about the Great American Songbook.

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

10th June – Stuart Atkins – Great American Songbook

8th July – Neil Hanson – Champagne Breakfast & Flying Pigs

12th August – Paul Adey – Engineering Oddities

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

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

Andrew Robinson

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Prayers and Poems Page

Life, Death, the Universe and Everything

It was in the garden when man first met
His Creator God and walked with Him.
The pleasures of Eden were his to enjoy
The genesis of man who was then without sin.

To make him complete God took Adam's rib
Forming Eve to be by his side,
But the devil appeared in the form of a snake
Offering fruit that they should have declined.

Paradise lost, they were sent from that place,
They had disobeyed God and death entered in,
No longer to walk in the cool of the day
And enjoy all the pleasures that God could bring.

But God's in control of all He has made,
Our world and beyond and mysteries untold,
There are more things in heaven and earth than we
know
To be revealed as time ends and eternity unfolds.

By Megan Carter



Miracle at the Table

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread
A simple communion of red wine and bread.
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low
That those knelt before Thee Thy true grace may
know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led
We listen to words that Jesus first said:
'This is My body, it's broken for you
And this is My blood, shed for you too.'

The bread that is broken, the wine seen outpoured
They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.
His body was broken that we might be saved
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you
Will help you to do what He'd have you do!

By Nigel Beeton

Be the Power of All Things Within us

O God the Holy Ghost who art Light unto Thine
elect,
Evermore enlighten us.
Thou who are Fire of Love,
Evermore enkindle us.
Thou who art Lord and Giver of life,
Evermore live in us.
Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,
Evermore replenish us.

By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

God, the Port of Peace

Now come all, you who have been brought
In bondage full of busy bitterness,
Earthly desire abiding in your thought!
Here is the rest from all your busyness,
Here is the port of peace and restfulness
To those who stand in storms and in dis-ease,
Open refuge to wretches in distress,
And all comfort from trouble and mis-ease.

Adopted from John Walton, about 1410

A new creature

Once I felt I was melting under the heat of anguish.
Once all hope of happiness had left me.
Now I melt under the heat of Your warm joy,
And my present bliss excludes even the memory of
past misery.

I am a new creature, Lord, reborn in You.
Your grace rises up and rushes through my veins.
You re-fashion my heart, as a sculptor fashions a
statue,
Shaping it in the perfect image of love.

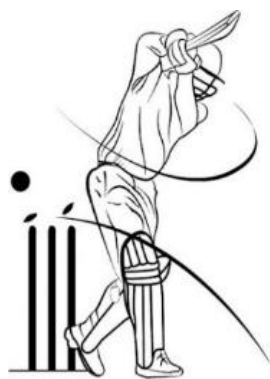
Jacopone da Todi (c 1230 – 1306)

Courage to die for You

We believe and trust, Lord, that at the time of terrible
persecution, You will hear and answer our prayers
with the utmost urgency. We pray with all our hearts
that You will give us courage to remain true to the
gospel and proclaim Your name right up till the
moment of death. Then may we emerge from the
snares of this world, with our souls unscathed, and
rise from the darkness of the world into Your
glorious light.

By Cyprian of Carthage

Whitley Hall Cricket Club



The season has started with reasonable weather and a ground in excellent condition. However, the matches have been challenging. The 1st XI started away at Wickersley Old village in tricky conditions with the ball turning on very green grass. Chasing a very low total of 133, we were all out for 124 gaining 6 points for being so close. The following week on 25th April, playing against Appleby Frodingham at home, Appleby set a strong challenge with 249 and a strong fight by Whitley ended in the team all out for 217 and 4 points. On 2nd May, away at Doncaster, we set a challenge of 217 which Doncaster could not match with a total of 190 all-out. On 9th May we welcomed Tickhill to Baxter Field and we batted first achieving just 117 all-out on a Green ground with ex-

Whitley player Biswick Kapala taking 4 wickets for 23. Tickhill reached our total quite easily with 119 for 4. The 2nd XI has shared the challenge this year with 2 wins and 2 losses and the 3rd XI is in a similar position to our 1st XI with one win and 3 losses. We wish all our players good luck for the rest of May and June.

The All Stars for Boys and Girls this season on Saturday mornings started on 16th May and Dynamos for girls started on Thursday evenings. See sign-up and details on <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search> or contact Emma on 07960981345.

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

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 30 th May | 1 st XI | v | Sheffield Hallam 1 st XI |
| Sun 31 st May | | | Whitley 6s Competition with BBQ and Bar Open |
| 6 th June | 2 nd XI | v | West Bretton 1 st XI |
| Sun 7 th June | 1 st XI | v | K3 Dental Cup v Appleby Frodingham |
| 13 th June | 2 nd XI | v | Sheffield Parkhead 1 st XI |
| 20 th June | 1 st XI | v | Whiston 1 st XI |
| 27 th June | 2 nd XI | v | Monk Bretton 1 st XI |
| Sun 28 th June | | | T20 Cup Semi-Final |
| 4 th July | 1 st XI | v | Wickersley 1 st XI |

Email: whitleyhall@yocspl.co.uk

Website: <https://whitleyhall.play-cricket.com>

Andrew Robinson (written on 14th May)

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

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
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Ecclesfield Cubs

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

Ecclesfield Beavers

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

Ecclesfield Scouts

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

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

Chapelton and District PROBUS Club

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

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

Useful Contacts



| | E-mail: | Phone: |
|--|---|---------------|
| <u>Vicar:</u> Revd. Tim Gill | ttimgill@aol.com | 257 0002 |
| Church Wardens Ann Hackett | | |
| 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: | Times and Days: | Phone: |
| Choir Practice in Church Contact: Lynda Pearce | 7 pm on Friday Practice in Church | 208 3500 |
| Music Group Contact: Andrea Whittaker | 7:30 pm Thursday Practice in Church | 246 0746 |
| Mother's Union in Gatty Hall Contact: Maureen Lambert | 1.00 pm 1st Wednesday of the month | 246 9690 |
| Ecclesfield Ladies Group Contact: Elaine Heeley | 2.00 pm Thursday in Gatty Hall | 07946 823284 |
| Bell Ringers Contact: Phil Hirst | 7:30 pm Tuesday in Church Belfry | 286 2766 |
| Gatty Hall Bookings | | 0780 307 8223 |
| For Baptisms or Weddings Enquiries please contact the Vicar | | |
| Magazine e-mail: | stmarys.magazine.ecclesfield@gmail.com | |

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

| Date | Day | Colour |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 7 th June | First Sunday after Trinity | Green |
| 14 th June | Second Sunday after Trinity | Green |
| 21 st June | Third Sunday after Trinity | Green |
| 28 th June | Fourth Sunday after Trinity | Green |



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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