

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Hatfield

including Dunscroft, Dunsville,

Woodhouse and Lindholme



May 2024 50p

Church Officers

Local code is 01302

Vicar *At present we are in interregnum, and are waiting to see who God is sending to us! Our prayers are with them whoever they are.*

Parish phone number: 07990 449263

Associate Priests Rev'd Gill Salter
tel: 07767 413513

Rev'd Joyce Barker
tel: 07763 765772

Readers

Beryl Adamson tel. 840230
Carol Rashid tel. 07900 061270
Viv Stubbs tel. 846318

Organist

Vernon Hoyle tel: 844643.

Youth, Children's and Families Worker

Rachel Ridler tel: 07851 991286
rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk

Parish Office tel: 350591
email: hello@hatfieldstlawrencechurch.com

Church Wardens

Vera Owen
tel: 07990 449263

Viv Stubbs
tel: 07990 449263

PCC Secretary Glenys Mashford
tel. 841852

Electoral Roll Officer Glenys Mashford
tel. 841852

PCC Treasurer and Giving Director
Karen Blair
karen.blair@hotmail.co.uk

Barn bookings Anne Render
tel: 07977 142001

Safeguarding Officer Andy Green
tel. 07711 584740

Magazine Editor Chrissy Grindle
email: maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com

Local Information

Childline tel. 0800 1111

South Yorkshire Police
Emergency 999 or 112
Non-emergency 101

Hatfield Health Centre
tel. 897600

Out of Hours Doctor
tel.761172

Homestart
tel. 340856

Family Lives
tel: 08088 002222

Bus help line
tel: 01709 515151

Travis St Lawrence C of E Primary School
Lower School tel. 840200
Upper School tel. 842164

Roman Catholic Priest
Roman Catholic Priest:
Fr Joseph Okeke
tel: 01405 812248
Parish Mobile Phone:
07714 793120

Methodist Minister
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Gichaara
tel. 01302 531868

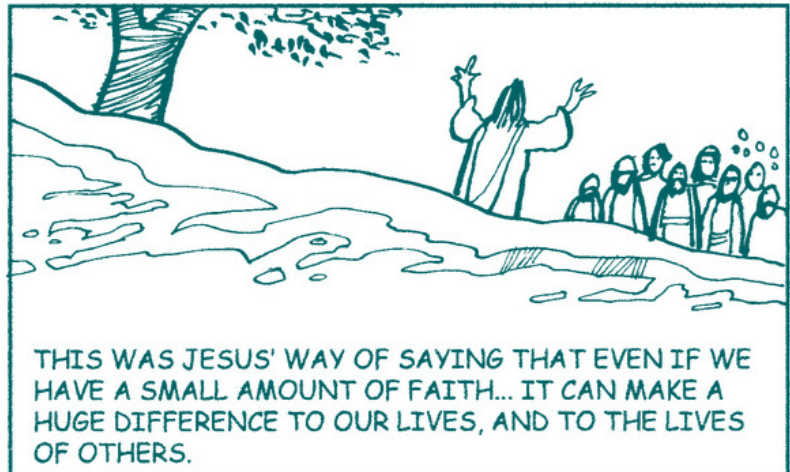
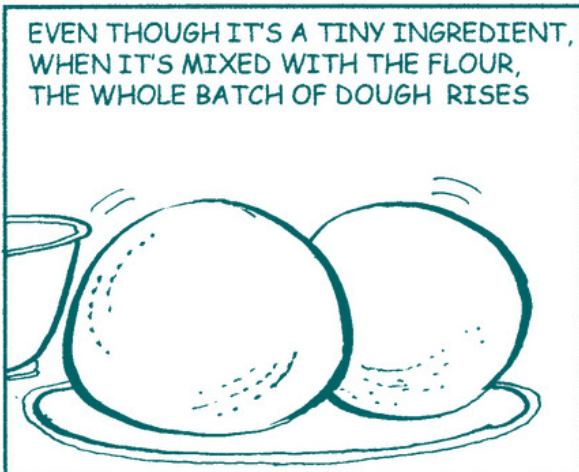
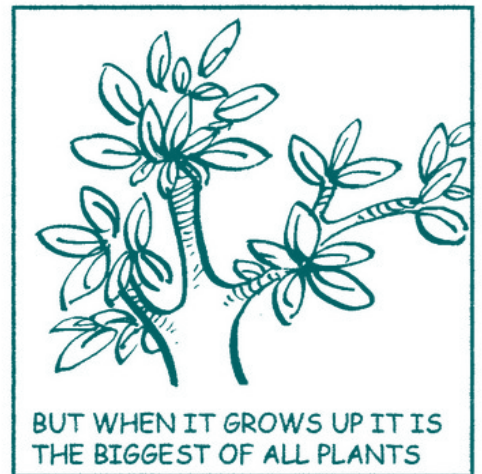
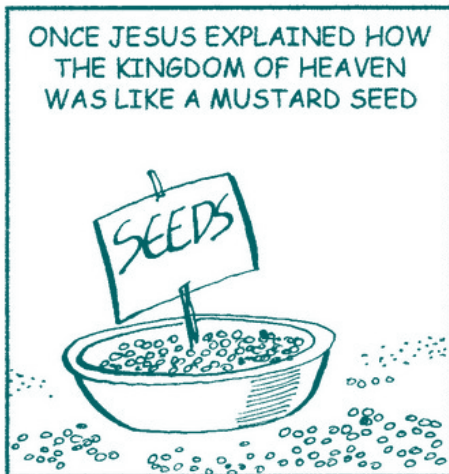
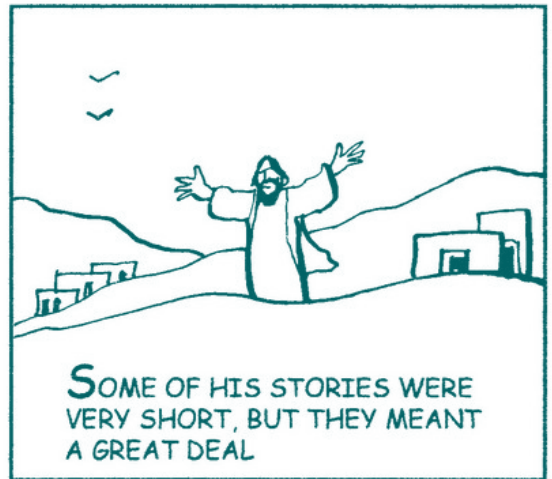
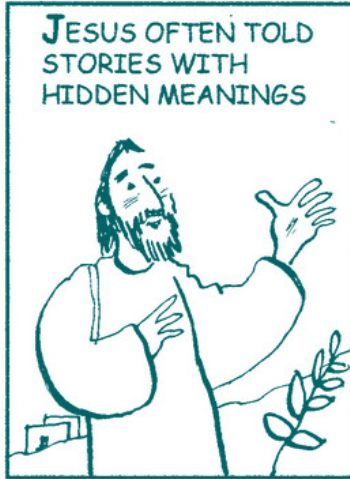
Weldricks Pharmacy Ash Hill Road
tel : 01302 842799

Funeral Directors
Charles Carpenter Funeral Services
tel. 841679

B A Wright & Sons
tel. 01302 841296
tel. 01302 880450

Wade's Funeral Service
tel. 01405 812966

The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast



Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have noticed that God is doing wonderful things among us!

Have you noticed? We're often so busy getting on with things that we forget to stop, look around and see God working. What does 'God working' look like? Well, it's tangible and real and it makes such a difference to our lives. People often comment on 'it' when they come into church. But what is 'it'? . . . 'it' could be described as the presence of God amongst his people, or the presence of God's Holy Spirit. I hope this does not sound pretentious or a bit spooky or scary but it is the awareness and feeling of love and acceptance in a community, which is not scary at all. In fact just the opposite! We also have an awareness of being promoted by God. When people are loved they begin to blossom, a bit like a sunflower turning its face to the sun, and in that safe place, healing can begin. Really knowing we are loved by God changes us, helps us to be our best selves, and helps us to love others.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who make up this loving community who would never seek recognition but each in their own way is being like Christ to one another - the coffee makers, those who dust and clean, those who bake, those who form the different teams needed for our activities, the technical folk, the worship leaders and musicians, the listeners, sidespeople, the prayers, event organisers, those who bring their admin gifts, magazine distributors, the befrienders, service leaders . . . in fact all of you! Because of you, and your love for each other, we are growing as a church.

We have all been through a time of great change and transition in our church, saying goodbye to Liz, Philippe, family, (and hounds), with thanksgiving for their wonderful ministry among us, and wondering what would come next. And so the months have passed, and sustained by prayer we have continued to serve each other, our church family and our

community. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and services have been conducted by our ministry team. (With just a little help from visiting clergy.) Thank you to them too!

By the time this goes to print we will have moved on even further. We will have had our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and will be saying goodbye to Viv Stubbs and Vera Owen who are standing down as our church wardens after many years of faithful service. (They almost took up residence!) Another huge thank you to both of them. (We hope they will be around to give advice!) We will also have progressed our search for a new priest in charge, interviews are being held before the end of April, but results may not yet be confirmed.

On the 19th May we will be celebrating a wonderful festival, Pentecost. It is a celebration of the day when God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit, through wind and flame to the followers of Jesus who were then empowered to spread the good news of Jesus death and resurrection - it was the birth of the church and the Holy Spirit was God's gift to every Christian.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know you are my disciples." John 14:34-35

Thanks to all of you, that in these darkened times, God's love shines out like a beacon of hope.

Every Blessing,

Beryl



Each MONDAY coffee afternoon 14:00-15:30 Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist

Each WEDNESDAY coffee after church at St Lawrence, Holy Communion at 10, coffee 11-12:30

Each WEDNESDAY coffee morning 10-11:30 at Stainforth Methodist

Each THURSDAY coffee morning 10-11:30 at Dunsville Methodist, Greens Road.

Each THURSDAY chair exercise group 14:00-15:00 at Methodist chapel Greens Road Dunsville

Each SATURDAY 10-11:30 coffee morning Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist church

2nd Thursday and every first Thursday, Stainforth History Group 19:00 Stainforth Methodist Church—Kevin Lennox talking about Greenwich

3rd Friday Wheatsheaf Singers in church 19:00, tickets on the door £6

7th Tuesday Garden Club, 19:30 Working Men's Club at Hatfield Woodhouse (every first Tuesday) You don't have to be a member to come to this friendly group and you will be made most welcome!

9th-19th Thy Kingdom Come, 10 days of prayer... <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/for-churches/worship-prayer/thy-kingdom-come-events/> for more information or in church

11th every second Saturday coffee afternoon 14:00-15:3— Dunsville Methodist Church Greens Road

28th Tuesday free crafts in church on 10-1pm

29th Wednesday open church 11am -3pm

30th Thursday Vernon Hoyle, organ recital at 7pm.



And to look forward to...

6th July – 2 - 5 pm St. Lawrence Church Annual Garden Party

14th Sunday Strawberry Tea!

Baptisms

Tristan Gaskin

Joseph Cox

Eleanor Hutchinson

Mila Alsop

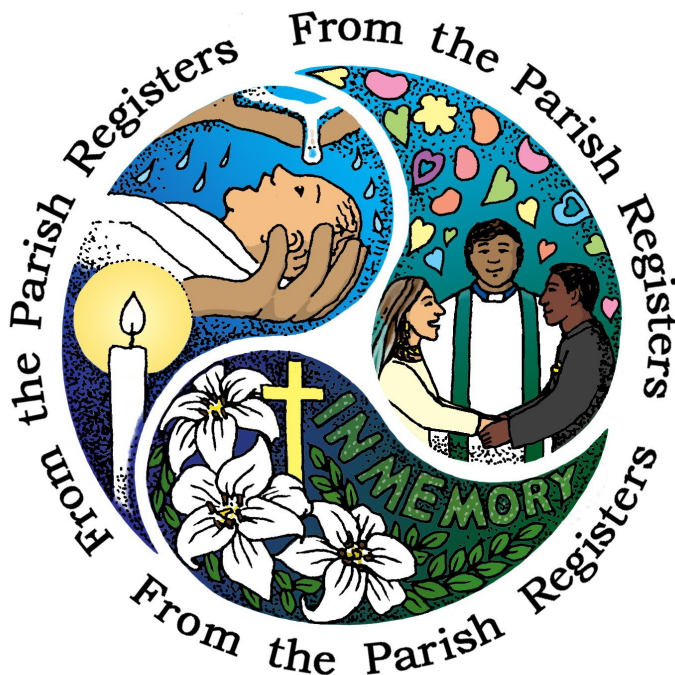
Funerals

Alma Alberta Riddler

Dennis Clark

Margaret Benson

Ronald Stuart Cross
(Ronnie)



**HATFIELD
HEROES
YOUTH**

**Spring/Summer
2024 Dates**

8th April - 11am LITTER PICK

14th April

28th April

12th May

28th May

9th June

21st -23rd June - HOPE Weekend

30th June

14th July

19th July - YOUTH HUB SUMMER SOCIAL

All sessions 6:30-8pm at the Barn
apart from Youth Hub nights.

9th-19th May 10 days of prayer

This is the originally Sheffield Diocese tradition— now nation wide- of using the ten days between Ascension Day and Pentecost to pray specifically for five people. There is more information on the website, or pick up a prayer diary in church.

<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/for-churches/worship-prayer/thy-kingdom-come->



The Friends of Hatfield Church Building Trust

The PLJ till has been ringing a lot recently, firstly at Thorne Library Spring Fayre on 22nd March, £42.50 in sales, and the next day, Saturday 23rd of March in Hatfield Community Library at our Coffee Morning, £43.50 in sales there. Finally at Rokeby Gardens Coffee Morning, Kirk Sandal, with another £14 hitting the cash box. We also received a cheque for £50.50 from Recycling for Good Causes and sent off another 10 kg sack of broken jewellery, etc for recycling, thanks to all those who either bought jewellery or donated it.

Our Coffee Morning was very well supported, I'm not sure I've ever seen so many delicious buns and cakes for sale! There was a fantastic raffle with 15 prizes, a great Tombola plus a Chocolate Tombola for the DN7 Foodbank and the Library volunteers produced the drinks. Our total raised was around £230, a great result!

There is now only 1 ticket left for our Coach Trip to Wollaton Hall on Tuesday 21st of May. We can take names for a waiting list in case there are any cancellations, contact 07873 340307.

Tina O'Halloran

Many thanks Tina, and I'd like to add that your stall at the Spring Fayre—after you'd written this—was really, really good, and amazing prices! I'm still wearing the very pretty £1.50 bracelet I bought at last year's Garden Party, and yes I can fiddle my fingers enough to take it off!! Editor





THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD

Exploring:

- our baptismal calling
- applying faith to everyday life
- developing a Personal Rule of Life

Lights for Christ Workshop

Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7-9pm

Hatfield St Lawrence Church
Station Road, Hatfield
Doncaster, DN7 6RX

Find out more or sign up
using the link above

Rachel says—

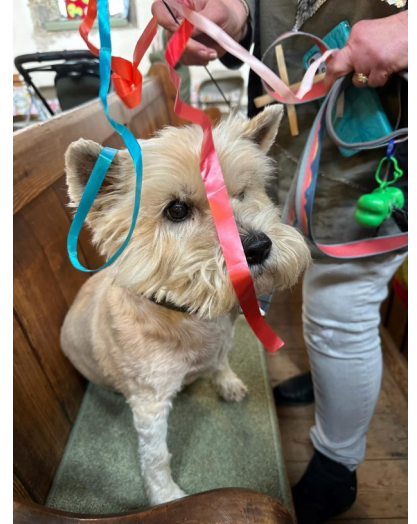
“I have successfully booked Hannah Sandoval in for our Lights for Christ Workshop on Tuesday 7th May 7-9pm. This will be a workshop with a mixture of general Lights for Christ stuff and an introduction to Personal Rule of Life. It should be suitable for all in our congregations – new and old believers alike!”

The links are <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NjczNi0zMw/t>
or <https://bit.ly/3UIhns8>



Diary of a Youth, Children's and Families Worker

As we wave goodbye to the Easter celebrations and look on to Pentecost, I have had the joy of experiencing and reflecting on how the many groups and activities I have been able to run and set up are now overlapping. My favourite service of the Easter season had to be Pet Palm Sunday, a joyous all age service where we had such a great mixture of people in attendance, from toddler group faces, to Café church team, to youth group members and those in the



“normal Sunday congregation” too (not my words, but I’m not sure how else to describe all the rest of those there!!). We can’t forget the many dogs, pair of guinea pigs and a chicken that attended as well. We had a drama performed by a variety of ages, prayers said by the children, and refreshments served by our amazing team too.

This term I’ve really seen the youth group members step up and come across into the Church building more. They have attended café church, they have popped in for a evening communion as part of our youth group



meeting, they have helped at Free Craft events for families and so much more. They are researching charities that run sponsored child programmes ready to present to our PCC so we can chose a new charity to support, have done another community litter pick and are really taking an interest in wider church activities. In April I will be taking 4 of them to Sheffield Cathedral to be part of Young Leader Community meeting to input on Diocese events and to help plan Breathe Deep, the youth day in January that we attended. I cannot take credit for their amazing willingness to help and be involved – much of this has been the fruit of years of prayer,

and I want to say a particular thank you to those from the Lent Group this year who have taken a name each away to pray over during that period. Our prayers for each of these young people individually is making a difference.

On Sunday night we started a new series at Hatfield Heroes Youth where we are welcoming members of the congregation to come and share a skill or a hobby. Sally was the first willing person to come along and share her knowledge and skills in counselling. We learnt how to listen to each other well, the impact that grief and loss can have, and how being thankful/grateful for the positive things in our lives can really help to change our perspective. Thank you so much for being willing to share with us and for our gifts of gratitude journals. We look forward to welcoming others over the coming weeks to teach us crochet, sewing, floristry, BSL and more.

These strides forward really have reminded this month of the power of prayer. Nothing happens without God behind it, and all of our young people can benefit from our prayers. If you would like the name of a young person to pray for, please do get in touch. I am also on the look out for some people who have the gift or calling to intercession and praying for requests as I look to launch some



“prayer inboxes” in the coming months. If that is you, and you have time to pray for those we are linked with in the community, do get in touch.

Finally – do pray for our Year 6s doing SATs soon, for those sitting GCSE’s and A levels in the coming months. It is a stressful time for our children and young people, and we pray that God will bring them peace and comfort. Amen.

Rachel Ridler

**Youth, Children's and Families Worker at St Lawrence Church, Hatfield |
The Diocese of Sheffield**

Tel 07851 991286 **Web** www.centenaryproject.org.uk

Twitter @CentenaryProj **Instagram** @CentenaryProject

Facebook @CentenaryProject

Church Explorers Week

A first for the Diocese of Sheffield, taking place from 25th May-2nd June.

St Lawrence is joining with other churches in the Diocese of Sheffield in the Church Explorer's Week at the end of May.

You can find out more at <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/church-explorers-week/>



There are five facets to this, History and Heritage, Family Fun, Outdoors and Nature, Open Days and Music.

Rachel and Rosh are busy planning and are hoping to

- have a nature trail/ churchyard event running throughout the week,
- free crafts in church on May 28th 10-1pm,
- open church May 29th 11am -3pm,
- the wonderful Vernon Hoyle doing an organ recital on the 30th at 7pm, and
- some kind of food event after Cafe Church on June 2nd.

They are also trying to arrange a workshop with presentation for Jonathan and Ruth Cook Conservation glass during the week. These are “our” glass specialists, who have taught us all we know about our glass! (With other people previously of course, we thank them all.)

Watch out for confirmed details over the coming weeks, check on our Facebook page and on the service sheet available any time the church is open.

save the dates
25th May - 2nd June

The Doncaster Wheatsheaf Singers



present an evening of musical entertainment

St Lawrence Church

Station Rd, Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6HN

7pm Friday 3rd May 2024

Tickets: £6

Includes light refreshments

Conductor Ray Gallagher

Piano Joanne Bostandji

*Tickets are available in advance
from the church by contacting
01302 846318 or 01302
840250, by contacting the
choir, or you can pay on the
door*



Follow us on facebook @DWSingers



Finding the Face of God

To all families there can be times of worry and distress. Recently my family has found ourselves in this situation over a health issue and I found the following a helpful way to look at things, and to be reminded of God's power over all things. I love the imagery of this following passage.

“Worry looks like a thick London fog, while it may seem dense and almost solid, scientists tell us that a fog bank - a hundred feet deep and seven city streets wide is composed of less than one glass of water. Divided into billions of tiny droplets it hasn't much substance yet has the power to bring the city to a standstill.

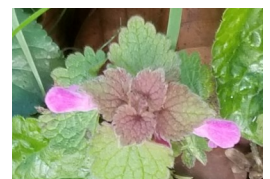
So it is with anxiety, our mind disperses the problem into billions of fear 'droplets' obscuring God's face. Taking our anxiety to God is often the last thing we think of when we are spiritually 'fogged in', and yet only the Son has the power to disperse it.”

(From “Dispatches” a journal sent to supporters of the Armed Forces Christian Union)

Beryl Adamson



This picture does have several flower plants in it, what's the name of this one?



And yes dandelions are wild flowers!

Churchyard flowers in April

If you stand outside the west door with your face towards the door, then look left, you will see an area of longer grass. That is being allowed to grow more naturally than ordinary mown grass. And it won't always look tidy, but then nature isn't tidy. Walking there recently Glenys M and Chrissy could see an abundance of wild flowers, quite apart from the daffodils. Can you name them all? Go and see for yourself, there might be different ones by now! And yes the Editor would love any pictures...



2024 Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 Results



United Kingdom top 10

We're so excited that 613,326 nature lovers took part in the Birdwatch this year, spotting a phenomenal 9,720,027 birds.



Perched in top spot for the 21st year running was the chirpy House Sparrow.

We also saw the Great Tit move into 7th place, pushing the Goldfinch down a spot. *[that's the one who wears a black tie and shouts "teacher, teacher, teacher, teach!"]*

- 1 House Sparrow A non-mover in top spot.
- 2 Blue Tit A non-mover
- 3 Starling A non-mover
- 4 Woodpigeon A non-mover
- 5 Blackbird A non-mover
- 6 Robin A non-mover
- 7 Great Tit Up one place
- 8 Goldfinch Down one place
- 9 Magpie A non-mover
- 10 Long-Tailed Tit A non-mover

Thank you so much if you took part. Does this match with your results? To find out more, do go to the RSPB website - www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/results?

We are thrilled to tell you that the birds have 'found' the birdfeeders in our churchyard and it's now quite a job to keep them topped up. Thank you to the kind person who left niger seeds and suet in the church

porch bird bin.

We did invest in a niger seed feeder but at the moment, it is squirrels 3 humans 0.

We will persevere!

I know it seems strange after all this rain, but don't forget to provide water for the birds in your garden.

If anyone would like to donate any fatballs or no-mess bird seed, it will be really appreciated. They can be left safely in the silver dustbin in the church porch. (the squirrels haven't worked out how to get into that... yet!!)



Glenys Mashford

Thank you so much Glenys. Just in case willing buyers haven't found this place the best value bird seed can be found in a house opposite Walkers, they're non-profit making but want to feed as many birds as possible! Just park on the verge, and take change as it's a money-in-letterbox setup.



Many thanks to Rachel Demain from Harrogate, on Facebook, nice one!





What is No Mow May?

Plantlife, the wild plant conservation charity, started the No Mow May campaign in 2019 to encourage garden owners to put their mower away during May and let wildflowers grow. In the UK we have lost 97 per cent of British wildflower meadows since the 1930s, which has removed a vital source of food for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

What are the benefits?

Leaving your grass to grow a little longer can have huge benefits to your environment and to wildlife. Even grass mown every four weeks will provide plants for pollinators. Less mowing encourages wildflowers to grow in your lawn and this is beneficial to pollinating insects such as hoverflies, bees and butterflies. Wildflowers also provide food for other creatures such as birds and small mammals. 'No Mow May' participants have reported almost 100 species of pollinators on their lawns including 25 types of moth and butterfly, and 24 types of bee. This information and image is from [Gardeners World.com](https://www.gardenersworld.com) but for more resources please visit Plantlife's No Mow May Movement on www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay



And if you have a picture of your unmown lawn please send it to the editor, to maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com or give to a warden or pop through the door at 60 Station Road.





Supporting

Alzheimer's Society



THORNE RURAL LIONS **Annual Midsummer** **5 Mile Charity Walk**

5 Mile route starting at
10am Town Fields
Pavillion

Sunday 12th
May 2023

Proceeding to Lakeside, Around the Lake then returning to the Pavillion.

For more info or to request a registration form please head to:



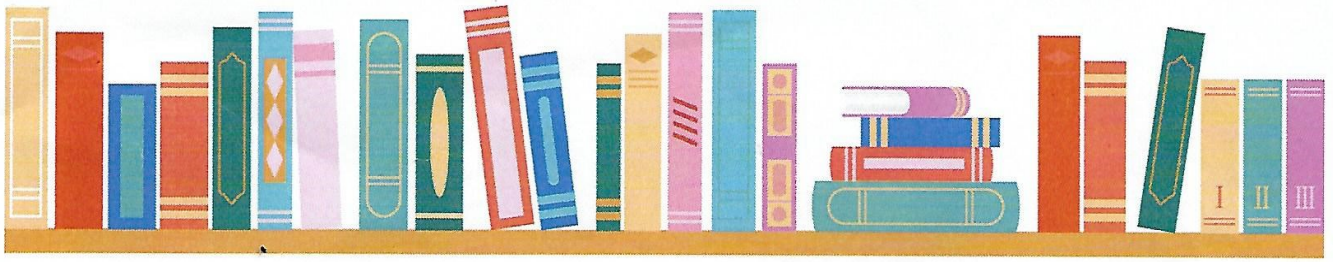
www.thornerurallions.com

Please arrive for registration at the Pavillion from 9am.

or Email:
musicline02@yahoo.co.uk

All proceeds to go too
Alzheimer's Society

In conjunction with Doncaster,
Tickhill and Went Valley Lions.



Coffee Morning & Book Club

**Come along and Choose a book to take home and read
at your leisure.**

£1 per week to include a cup of Tea/Coffee

Every Monday 10am to 12pm

Dunsville Methodist Church, Greens Road, Dunsville, DN7 4DE



A prayer for Pentecost.
Great Spirit of God,
you remain unquenched, and we dare not attempt
to domesticate or limit you.
Disrupt our false ideas and idolatries.
Remake and renew us in your work of recreation.
Amen.

From Watch and Pray, Lent 2024



Magnolia 'Elizabeth' in
Dr Waters' Garden
planted at the time of Queen
Elizabeth's platinum jubilee in
June 2022.

It is part of a living legacy of
over three million trees planted
across the United Kingdom for
this occasion.

"The Queen's Green Canopy."
It will grow slowly to about
10 metres

One way to cope with elections, wherever they are!

From BRF Day by Day Bible reading notes

"Which politician frustrates you most at the moment?"

Spend some time today praying for them, laying aside everything you've heard about them in the media and asking the Spirit to show you how God sees them."

Lyndall Bywater.

HATFIELD HEROES.

Rachel asked for anyone to give a little time to speak to the Hatfield Heroes about a skill. I offered to talk about Counselling and plan a few activities around the theme. What a lovely group of Young People and I so enjoyed meeting them.

We started with a brief introduction of what is Counselling and Donna contributed a loud bang (as requested) in the kitchen giving us the opportunity to explore feelings, thoughts and actions. We had a bit of fun with Rachel and I demonstrating "bad and good listening". A loss and change sheet was circled individually and Feelings were explored further by choosing a feeling photograph to illustrate how you were feeling. We moved on to choose a feeling now showing how all was calm again after the storm and how positive thoughts can overcome negative feelings.

It is so important to recognise feelings, the importance of talking and sharing with a trusted person. I spoke of the "elephant in the room" and gave out a picture of an elephant to remind them, and the poem which applies to the death of someone you love or could apply to any other loss or big change which causes distress.

Talking can help.

Sally Chamberlain



Elephant in the Room by Terry Kettering

It is large and squatting, so it is hard to get around it.
Yet we squeeze by with, "How are you?" and "I'm fine," and
a thousand other
forms of trivial chatter. We talk about the weather. We talk
about work.
We talk about everything else, except the elephant in the room.

There's an elephant in the room.
We all know it's there. We are thinking about the elephant as
we talk together.
It is constantly on our minds. For, you see, it is a very large
elephant.
It has hurt us all.

But we don't talk about the elephant in the room.
Oh, please say his (her) name.
Oh, please say his (her) name again.
Oh, please, let's talk about the elephant in the room.

For if we talk about his (her) death, perhaps we can talk about his
(her) life.
Can I say his (her) name to you and not have you look away?
For if I cannot, then you are leaving me....
alone....
in a room....
with an elephant.

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"



The Editor promises that she wasn't here when the St Lawrence kitchen space was built, so there is no deliberate similarity to anyone in Uncle Eustace's letter to his nephew Darren! But whatever trials of our kitchen space we are all very thankful for it, and for the many people who become family when they start to do the washing up.

On the perils of building a kitchen in church

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing

pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Faith in Families to run Wales' first multibank

Cwtch Mawr, Wales' first 'multibank', has been officially opened by Mark Drakeford, until recently First Minister and Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister.

Multibanks are based on the foodbank model, but provide a wider range of non-perishable goods, enabling businesses to redistribute surplus unsold items to people for free.

Cwtch Mawr will be run by Faith in Families, with support from Gordon Brown and Amazon, who co-founded the multibank initiative. The Welsh Government is providing £125,000 for the start-up of the project, with other support coming from local partners including Swansea Council, Pobl Housing Association and The Moondance Foundation.

Cwtch Mawr will be supported by donations from Amazon and other companies, including cleaning wipes, sanitary products, toilet paper, kitchen rolls and toys. New and reusable household goods, food, clothes, toiletries, furnishings, bedding, children and baby goods are expected to be provided in future.

The multibank model encourages businesses to cut down on waste through the creation of a bank of surplus household goods. Cwtch Mawr plans to donate more than 300,000 surplus essential goods to 40,000 families in poverty this year.

A charity which might be able to help someone you know.

Tax Help for Older People is a charity to help people aged approaching 60 and upwards who have a total individual income of less than £20,000 a year. Our services are given free of charge by telephone etc. by our Head Office or, where needed, face to face by volunteers.

The reasons for contacting us encountered most frequently are:

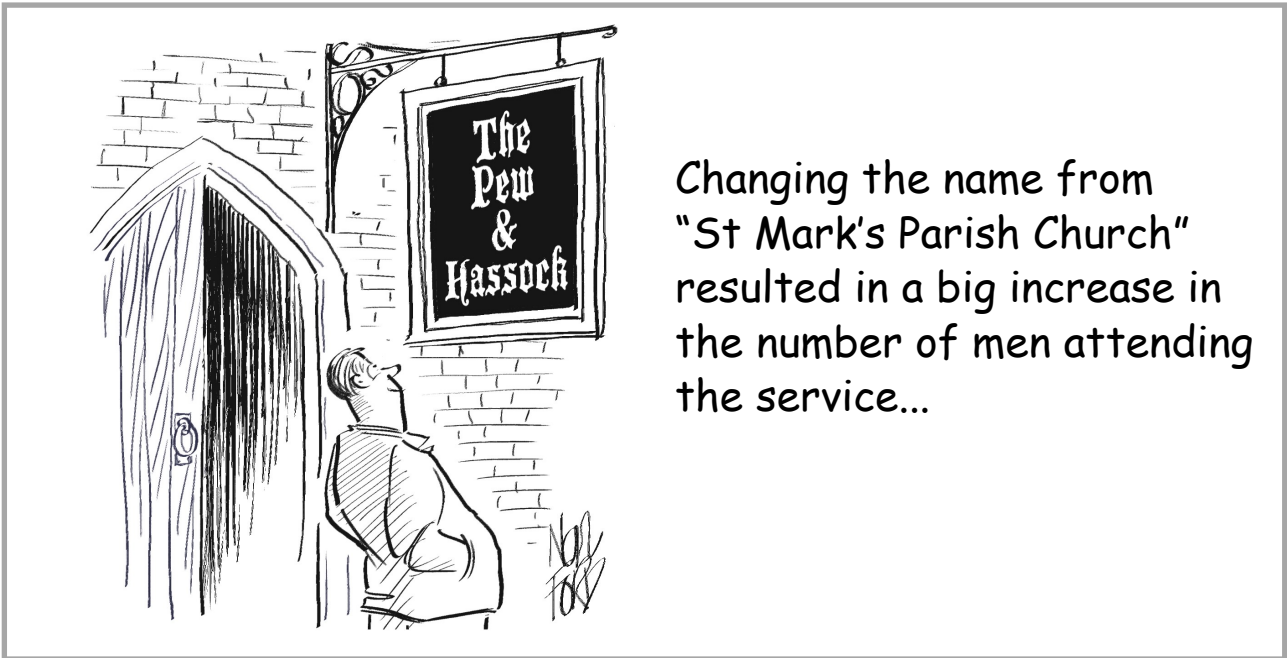
- Unexpected statements from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) showing underpaid tax;
- Changes in income and tax following the death of a spouse or civil partner;
- One spouse (or civil partner) paying Income Tax, but not the other – the taxpayer could have some of the other person's unused tax relief;
- Confusing communications from HMRC; or even without specific concerns, needing the assurance of a "tax health check".

Tax Help does not give advice on benefits or Council Tax, but we try to signpost our clients where we feel that they need such help.

You may find our website (www.taxvol.org.uk) helpful. We can be contacted by phone on 01308 488066 or by e-mailing taxvol@taxvol.org.uk.

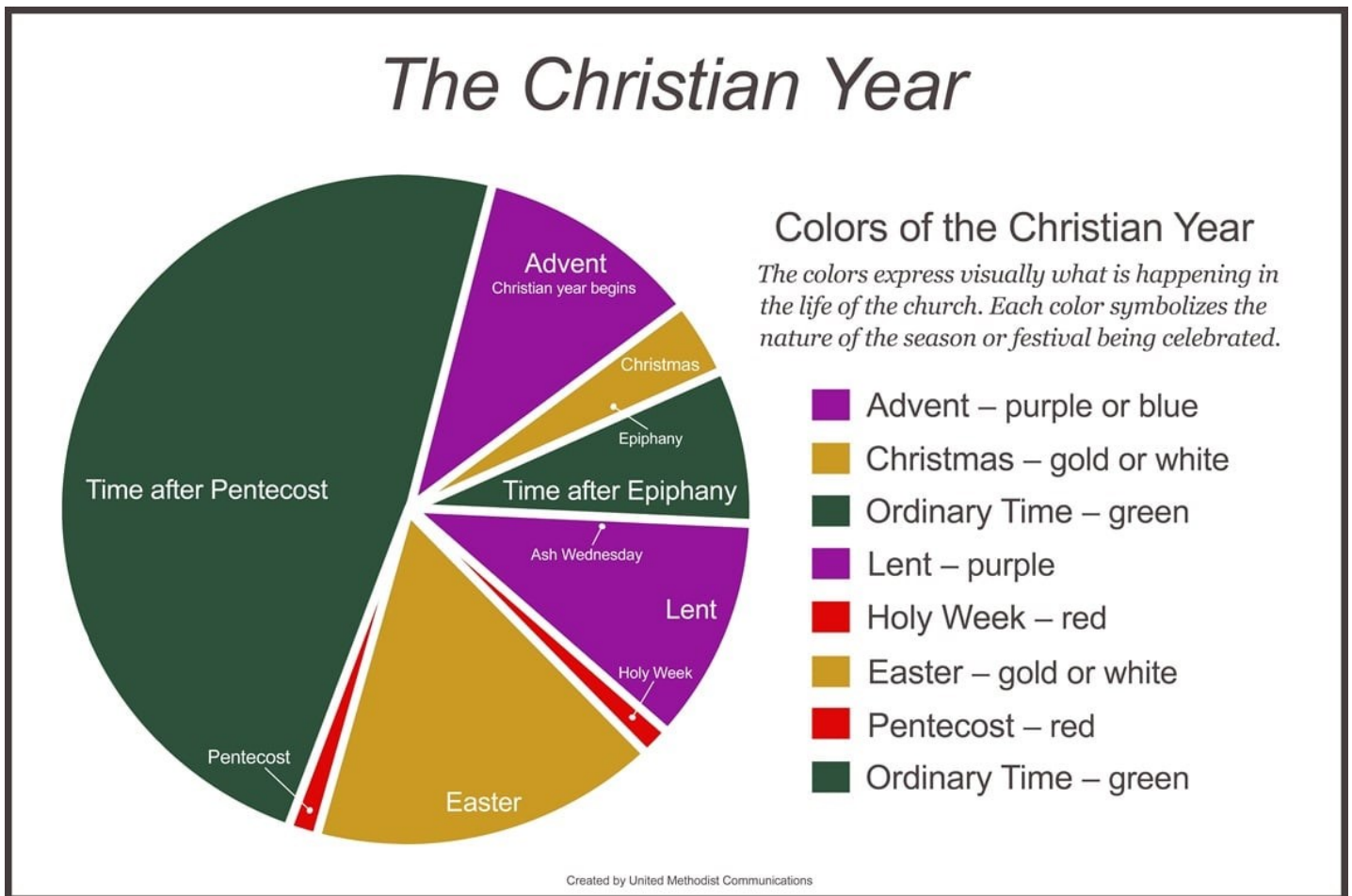
As editor I fully endorse the above. I asked friends who I've known since 1970 about it when it was mentioned in our general conversation. I have absolute trust in my friends who are notable public people living near Darlington, so please feel you can trust the above.

Chrissy Grindle



Changing the name from "St Mark's Parish Church" resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending the service...

If you look at the back covers you'll see that every Sunday has a colour! The table below shows how after the exciting and colourful time in May we'll settle into a long time of green, before we see Advent again at the end of November. Watch the Lord's table cloths, the pulpit hanging, and the clergy stoles!



The Editor REALLY apologises for the spelling of COLOR, the earliest use is c.1300, maybe their spellings weren't good either! The chart above is American, but it's useful so we'll forgive them ;)

100 Club and Vera's chatter

1st prize Julia Green

2nd prize John Alick

3rd prize Pat Walker

Congratulations all of you, Pat is one of our most senior supporters and an absolute joy to be with.

April has been a very mixed month, it started perfectly with thoughtful preparation for Easter and then a burst of joy as we celebrated the reason that we all go to church, Jesus died and rose again for us that we may live life more abundantly with the promise of everlasting life! The lilies fragranced the church and looked beautiful, Jean had done a wonderful job on them, Glynis decorated the RAF window in her usual exuberant fashion to delight young and old and Anne Render Easter-themed another window very beautifully. Not to be out done I threw together an Easter garden, we had lots of compliments on the beauty of our church and the Ministry Team were inspirational and of course we had the joy of Vernon playing the organ for us: it makes such a difference to our worship,

Easter Monday saw a few of us packing up and off to Spring Harvest at Butlins, Skegness for a few days of Bible-led refreshment. I was disappointed there was no big top this year, Butlins has redesigned the site, but we soon got used to the new venue. The weather was kind to us, it rained all night, was dry in daylight and we even saw the sun occasionally. We enjoyed the company, made new friends and Carol got a selfie with Tim Vine which delighted her! [And would have delighted him too Carol of course!] If you are interested in coming with us next year please ask us about it, the dates are 7th-11th April 2025.

We came back to prepare for the interview for our new Vicar, it has been a very intense process involving lots of people coordinated by Rosh, we have been immensely grateful for all the prayer and support we have received and hope you will all be happy with our choice which by the time you read this may have been announced.

Sadly after that high came the low ,when I came to St Lawrence I was shocked to meet another Vera ,it is not a very common name. Vera Geal was a delightful lady who was with us for many years before becoming one of St Edwins congregation, she was a talented pianist and loved her Church we send our condolences to her family.

Then we got the sad news that Ronnie Cross had died, Ronnie quietly came and went to Church never wanting to be made a fuss of or being visible but always ready to help if he could. He loved my marmalade, but I am sure celestial marmalade is better and his work colleagues benefitted from our cake baking, No one will ever laugh at my pie cutter wheel trims the way Ronnie did (I am a terrible parker) or remind me that cars need cleaning, he did promise to sell me the first self-cleaning car marketed! We shall miss him and send our condolences to his family.

On a happier note, if you have panicked when you drove past Hatfield TV Services and saw the shutters down there is no need, they are working from home the number is 01302845520. They very recently saved my bacon when I accidently gave the remote a wash when I changed the bedding! More haste less speed I hear you cry. I wish them many more years bringing entertainment to Hatfield, I could tell tales of Stuart, my Gareth and John Holt jnr leading Mrs Press a merry dance at Manor but my lips are sealed,

Don't forget to come to the Wheatsheaf Singers concert on May 3rd at 7pm pay your £6,00 on the door and join us for a guaranteed good evening.

Then the Garden Party and Strawberry tea will upon us,

Vera x



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Sarahbridge82@gmail.com

Joining in on Facebook!

You can join Rev'd Gill on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 for a short Morning Prayer— 10 minutes, and on Saturday evenings at 9:30 for Night Prayer.

Go to the St Lawrence Hatfield page and try it out!



Please ensure that copy for the magazine is with the editor by the 15th of each month, preferably in writing. This means that the magazine can be put together, printed and collated and in church by the last Sunday in each month, and to be delivered by the time of the first activities in the month.

Copy to

Chrissy Grindle, letter in church or to
60 Station Road, or email:
maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com

Thank you.

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Worship times and readings

Each Wednesday

10.00 Holy Communion followed by Open Church from 11.00 – 12.30 in a warm space, turn your heating off and join us for coffee, chat, quiet prayer..... And at 12:00 our Lent and After group meets in church in person. Come and try it out!

Sunday May 5th Easter 6

10:00 Café Church

18:30 Holy Communion Acts 10: 44-48; John 15: 9-17

Sunday May 12th Easter 7

10:00 Holy Communion Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26; John 17: 6-19

Sunday May 19th PENTECOST

10:00 Café Church

18:30 Holy Communion Acts 2: 1-21; John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b - 15

Sunday May 26th TRINITY (white)

10:00 Holy Communion Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17

The illustration on the front cover is from the Church of England's Lent readings Watch and Pray. It and other lovely art work in the series are by Samuel Poch.

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This is the QR (quick response) code for St Lawrence Church, There is also a card reader in church for easy payments towards the mission and ministry of our beautiful church, and there is a facility for gift-aiding on there.