



St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church  
An Anglican Methodist Partnership

# NEXUS

*Christ in Nether Edge & Us*

*Christmas and New Year Greetings*

**December 2017 – January 2018**

[www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk](http://www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk)

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(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow )

## Welcome & Cover Illustration

Welcome to all readers of NEXUS. There are links to further information contained within the text and readers may find it easier to access the links by accessing Nexus on the web page of St Andrew Psalter Lane <http://www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk/>

Nexus is curated by Anne Hollows 07723407054, [anne.hollows@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hollows@gmail.com)

At this point in the year it is timely to thank all the regular contributors to Nexus as well as the occasional contributors. As curator I must say how much I value the regular and the surprise contributions popping into my inbox and I appreciate the time and trouble that people take. If you would like to write for Nexus please get in touch. The next issue of Nexus will have a special focus on Pope Francis' desire for us to be a Church of the Poor, and will include a report on the Church Action on

Poverty national Conference as well as contributions about anti poverty initiatives locally and nationally.

## **Letter from Gareth**

Dear friends,

It seems a while ago now since SAPLC's away day back in March. Not only was it a stimulating day in itself, but a number of significant objectives came out of it. Among these was a wish to have the church open during part of every week, to offer an opportunity for people from the local community to drop in for a chat or a time of prayer or to enjoy the lovely space and the peace and quiet that can be found there.

We therefore opened the church for four hours every weekday during September and October, and church members kindly signed up to cover each of these periods. As expected, the number of people calling in was never large (except for the two Heritage Open Days), but on most days one or two people did drop in, and they often valued the opportunity for a conversation. We therefore decided to continue to open the church during the week, but now just on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been on the rota and devoted their time to enabling this to happen.

But "openness", of course, isn't just about what we do with our building. It's a word we've used over the years to refer to our aspirations as a church community. Since well before my time as minister, SAPLC has used the phrase "open minds and open hearts" to identify how it understands its mission, and it's good every so often to revisit this phrase and remind ourselves what we mean by it.

To have open minds means being willing to consider new ways of looking at things, and being willing to entertain new understandings of truth wherever those understandings may come from. This doesn't mean having an "anything goes" approach, or avoiding genuine Christian commitment. Far from it. Simone Weil, one of the most complex religious thinkers of the twentieth century, once wrote: "Christ likes us to prefer truth to him, because, before being Christ, he is truth. If one turns aside from him to go towards the truth, one will not go far before

falling into his arms.”

To have open hearts can mean two complementary things: being open to God and being open to humanity. If I can take the second of these first, it means approaching people in a spirit of love and welcome, and without prejudging. It involves seeing the humanity of the other person, and not limiting my friendship, respect and care to those who happen to be like me. To have open hearts is to be compassionate, generous, receptive and inclusive, and to have a universal vision of the human family.

What about the other (though related) meaning of “open hearts”, being open to God? To have hearts that are open to God means to acknowledge in the depths of our being that there is a holy, sacred dimension to our existence. It also means allowing our lives to be transformed by divine grace, peace and love. As we enter into the Advent season, we might say that this is the openness of Mary as she says to the angel, “Let it be with me according to your word”; and the openness of responding to the divine light and life of which St John speaks in the prologue to his Gospel, a light and life embodied in Christ but discovered wherever grace, truth and love are to be found.

Love and peace,  
Gareth



## **CONTEMPLATION**

### **MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER Part 3**

Give us this day our daily bread; Father, in your kingdom everyone will have what they need - their particular 'bread',

though it doesn't really mean food, but the things that sustain our lives. When we ask for what we need, help us to ask for what we really need, not for what we would rather like to have. But even as we pray that prayer, we have to bring with us the hungry of the world whose need is simply bread, basic food, clean water, and a chance in life. Picture the human tide of refugees tramping across Europe; empty stomachs, parched lips, the mother who has no milk for her baby. We hear little of them now. So let us pray for our hungry neighbour. Give us all our daily bread.

God, lover of us all,  
most holy one,  
help us to respond to you,  
to create what you want for us here on earth.  
Give us today enough for our needs;  
forgive our weak and deliberate offences,  
just as we must forgive others  
when they hurt us.  
Help us to resist evil  
and to do what is good;  
for we are yours,  
endowed with your power  
to make our world whole.                      Lala Winkley

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; Father, we know that much sin is love which has been misdirected onto the wrong things. You long to redirect our love to each other and to you. Help us to be open to your abundant forgiveness. But make us aware too, of those people we are unable to forgive, and against whom we still hold grudges. Bring them to our minds now and release them from our grasp.....Talking of forgiveness brings to mind Maureen Greaves, wife of Alan Greaves, who was so brutally beaten to death on his way to play the church organ one Christmas Eve. At the time, she said that she would not hold on to her feelings of hate and unforgiveness, that she would be praying for the murderers, and

that she hoped that God's great mercy would inspire them to true repentance. But she also said that her compassion for the killers had done nothing to stop the constant pain she felt. "I don't want people to think that, because I can forgive, this has been an easy journey for me," she said. A truly remarkable woman. Then there is, of course, the tragic death of Jo Cox, stabbed to death and shot in the street. A vibrant, happy, hard working woman, she had fought tirelessly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged around the world. Now, the values she held dear, service, community and tolerance, have been wiped out by a well of hatred. How hard must it be for her husband, to forgive; he has not only lost his wife, but the mother of their two small children too. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

## **Talking Point : New Year Resolutions**

So what will we try to do more of/ less of/ better or differently next year? And rather like the perennial commitments to go to the gym every day, will the resolve last for any more than a week?

The end of the year is a good time to take stock and review what has gone well in our lives as individuals, families and indeed as a church. It is usually the case that there have been successes, as well as learning experiences ( a much better way of thinking than the 'f' word). This column is intended to be a stimulus for conversations between people at church whether in the pew before the service or over coffee afterwards. It raises themes that might be nattered about over knitting or chewed over at soup and puddings lunches. This edition of Nexus will bring us to within 6 or so weeks of the anniversary of our church away day and it might be timely to focus our minds on the aims we set ourselves then in order to review how we might carry those aims forward. The aims were ambitious – and that's no bad thing at all. But ambitions have to be worked at if they are to be pursued. A feature of government in recent years has been the advent of 'Tsars' or progress chasers, who are intended to make sure that initiatives keep moving forward. As a title it has had its detractors but the concept has some virtues. It provides an individual with the responsibility to get things

done and to see ideas through to fruition. How might we change that? Think about how we can move forward with some of our ideas and how your resolutions might contribute!

## **From the archives :1930 and the new Methodist Church on Psalter Lane**

Earlier this year I visited the Sheffield Archives to research a chapter I was writing about worship in Nether Edge for the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group's latest book, 'Aspects of Nether Edge.' I was especially interested to read a copy of the souvenir brochure produced for the opening of Psalter Lane Methodist Church in 1930, much of it written by the minister, the Reverend G V Potter, (grandfather of Mary Kenward). The brochure is very lavish, with photographs of Shirley House and the minister and principal office holders of the church, together with some interesting advertisements for local businesses such as the Ecclesall Laundry on Hunter House Road and Austin cars from Kennings.

The congregation of South Street New Connexion Methodist Chapel, which stood on what is now The Moor, decided that it was time to move to the suburbs and purchased the Shirley House estate on Psalter Lane. A good number of the members already lived in Sharrow. The foundation stone was laid on 6th June 1928 and the church opened on 1st February 1930. In the meantime, the congregation worshipped in Shirley House.

The brochure produced for the opening ceremony comments that the architect 'Mr J A Teather, has prepared a very beautiful and dignified design'. It was the hope of the congregation that there would be 'beautiful services and that the new church would provide 'an atmosphere that is favourable to worship. Fine music will be a prominent feature of our services, but the Choir will not monopolise the singing'. Whilst the primary purpose of the church was of course worship, the congregation also intended that their church should be 'a home' and 'to create amongst its members the spirit of true fellowship'. To this end there would also be weekday activities, which would make use of the ample premises and extensive grounds. In the Institute



(which in the event was never built) it would be possible to play billiards, badminton, table tennis, chess and draughts. There would be a Rest Room with books and magazines. Outdoor games would include tennis, cricket, football, putting, croquet and bowling and during the winter months there would be lectures, concerts, dramatic productions and socials.

I joined Psalter Lane Methodist Church in 1979 and thinking back to those times it was still possible to see the legacy of those founding members: services a little more formal than is usual in a Methodist Church at which the psalms were chanted, a strong choir, a drama group, a snooker club in Shirley House and tennis courts where Southcroft now stands. The Christmas tea in Shirley House, followed by the distribution of Christmas cards and the Carol Service lit by fairylights in the church was an annual highlight. Our church is very different now, but not everything has changed. I wonder what we should write if we had to produce a similar brochure today?

'Aspects of Nether Edge' is published by the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group. Copies may be obtained by emailing [historygroup@netheredge.org.uk](mailto:historygroup@netheredge.org.uk); price £11.95.

Judith Roberts

## **Musical notes: Veni Veni Emmanuel**

James MacMillan is one of the best-loved composers of our time and listening to his Desert Island Discs provided some surprising revelations. He pointed out that his first piano Concerto, known as The Beserking, was possibly the only piano concerto inspired by the away goals rule in football's European Championships (*n.b. for football buffs: after his beloved Celtic had qualified in a game against Partisan Belgrade in 1989*).

Macmillan's lively interest in politics has always played second fiddle, just, to his devotion to Catholicism and he described raised eyebrows when he left Communist Party meetings in time to go to mass. His profound faith has influenced perhaps more of his work than has football, and it is worth listening again to the Desert Island Discs to know more of the man and his musical tastes.

I was lucky enough to attend an early performance of his first Concerto for Percussion, written for and performed by Evelyn Glennie with the

Halle Orchestra, along with my very young daughter who was on the edge of her seat throughout. The work has the title Veni Veni Emmanuel and indeed that 9<sup>th</sup> century antiphon, used originally in the octave before Christmas, forms a series of motifs throughout the work. It is a tour de force for the percussionist, ably met by Glennie and in subsequent performances by others including Colin Currie. There are a number of recordings of both these performers but if you don't know it, I recommend that you watch on You Tube for two reasons. First, the almost gymnastic ability of the soloist across the instruments is remarkable and doesn't distract from the music. But secondly for the ending. In the last 4 minutes, all the orchestra members put down their instruments and pick up instead a small triangle. As the entire orchestra begins to play their triangles with increasing intensity, the soloist tiptoes to the back of the orchestra where the giant bells are assembled. Even now on hearing it, I am immediately transported to a freezing cold hillside above Bethlehem as stars twinkle and snowflakes flurry and then...quietly at first, but with a gradual crescendo, the bells ring out. Veni, veni Emmanuel, indeed.

Anne Hollows

## **By the book: The Enchantment of Fairy Tales**

Once upon a time ...

I can't remember not knowing fairy tales. When I was very young, before I could read, I gulped down the stories I was told – a fine example of the oral tradition the tales first sprang from. As soon as I could read them for myself, I did so with a voracious lack of discrimination - and watched them, too. Walt Disney has a great deal to answer for!

Then in the village library I haunted every Saturday (and where I practically lived during school holidays) I discovered tattered editions of the twelve collections of fairy tales by Andrew Laing - The Blue (and Red, Green, and even Violet) Fairy Books, originally published between 1889 and 1910. Now I was hooked on real fairy tales, not the saccharine stuff of Disney films. Real fairy tales are bold, savage, and visceral things, made from the raw stuff of life – love, hate, jealousy, fear, and humour. Fairy tales don't have to contain fairies but they do need either magic or

mythical beings (and preferably both). They usually take place in an unspecified country “once upon a time” or “a long, long time ago”. The origins of fairy tales such as Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and Rumpelstiltskin stretch back thousands of years to the oral tradition of storytelling. The oldest known version of Cinderella was recorded in Greece more than two thousand years ago. For hundreds of years, when books were scarce and expensive and hardly anyone knew how to read, people spent evenings telling each other stories.

Every culture has fairy tales, and the same stories can be found in different countries – the names may have been changed, along with a few minor details.

Once literacy became more widespread and the invention of printing made books cheaper and easier to get hold of, fairy tales spread like ... well, like magic. In France Charles Perrault is credited with being the godfather of fairy tales, turning old folk tales into well known stories such as Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Puss in Boots, and Sleeping Beauty. In Germany the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (both librarians) collected over 150 tales and published them in the early 19th century. In Denmark Hans Christian Andersen wrote new fairy stories including The Little Mermaid, The Snow Queen, and The Ugly Duckling, which were translated into English in 1845.

Fairy tales continue to evolve, with many re-tellings of classic stories such as Angela Carter's *Book of Fairy Tales* (Virago, 2005) and *Grimm Tales: for young and old* by Philip Pullman (Penguin Classics, 2013). There are also many wonderful new fairy tales, such as *The Girl with Glass Feet*, and *The Man who Rained*, both by Ali Shaw.

There's a lot more to fairy stories than just Walt Disney!

Jean Allen

## **Shirley House Interfaith Centre**



Our programme for autumn and winter has a varied range of activities, so if you don't plan to come to everything, I hope you will find something to encourage you to join our interfaith network.

As usual, Interfaith week happens just as Nexus goes to press, so you may have missed:

- A talk about the celebration of Bicentenary of the birth of Baha'u'llah on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. (7.30 pm at Shirley House Interfaith Centre)
- Sheffield Interfaith walk around Pitsmoor, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November (2pm)*
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 11.00, Baha'i-led service at Underbank Chapel*
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 1-3 pm Women's Interfaith Forum 1-3 pm St Mary's Bramall Lane*

But you will still be able to join the following:

- Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> Food & Friendship dinner 6-8pm
- Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Party and Winter celebrations quiz
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 -Art & Craft evening 6.30-9.00
- 

See the weekly pew sheet, the noticeboard at the entrance to Shirley House car park and [sheffieldinterfaith.org.uk](http://sheffieldinterfaith.org.uk) for details. All our events include refreshments and new people of any, all or no faith are always welcome. Caroline Cripps

## **Theology Everywhere:**

### **Thoughts and Prayers by Jonathan Pye.**

On 1 October 2017, 59 people were killed and 500 wounded when a gunman opened fire on a crowd attending a music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. Although reported as the largest mass shooting by a lone gunman in US history, it was also simply the latest in a long litany of fatal shootings in that country that over just the last 20 years has included places like Columbine High School, Virginia Tech., Sandy Hook, Fort Hood and Orlando. The assailant was neither young, nor black, poor or

radicalised. He was a 64 year old accountant, living in a retirement complex. It remains unknown why this seemingly unremarkable man amassed an armoury or used it to such deadly effect. In the days that followed we heard, time and again, from elected locals the usual familiar clichés in the face of such tragic and large-scale killings. Two days after the shooting Kirsten Powers wrote in an article in the Washington Post – “Why ‘thoughts and prayers’ is starting to sound so profane”. Although herself, ‘a person who prays and who has been prayed for and knows its power’ she wrote: It’s become a sort of twisted American ritual: A lone white male shooter opens up on a crowd of people. Americans cry out for someone to do something and are met with shoulder shrugs, mumblings about ‘the price of freedom’ and assurances that the people elected to protect them are sending their “thoughts and prayers.” Politicians have managed to make a once benign, if not comforting, phrase sound almost profane. [i] What she objects to particularly is the way in which civic and national leaders ‘spiritualise’ the problem by praying for victims rather than offering any practical response or effective action. Her colleague, Colby Itkowitz, writing after the 2016 nightclub shooting in Orlando described this as ‘a too easy, even insincere, display of empathy in absence of real action...’[ii] While both would agree that prayer can be precious, both as an expression of empathy for the victims and a way of making meaning in the face of brutality, nonetheless both would contend that ‘thoughts and prayers’ alone can simply be an evasion of the responsibility to act in the face of wrongdoing. Without action, prayer becomes merely a self-directed act – it makes the pray-er feel better, rather than being something that seeks to help those who are prayed for or to change the way things are. Such observations are charged with both psychological and theological insight. In his book, Zero Degrees of Empathy[iii] Simon Baron-Cohen, professor of developmental psychopathology in the University of Cambridge, seeks to understand why some people act in ways that demonstrate great cruelty while others are completely self-sacrificing (the kind of contrasting behaviour that we observe in the difference between the shooter and those who covered the bodies of friends or relatives with their own bodies to prevent them from being injured). Baron-Cohen asks whether rather than thinking in terms of ‘good’ and ‘evil’ we ought rather to consider everyone as lying somewhere along an ‘empathy spectrum’. Without minimising the effects of either ‘nature’

or 'nurture', I would resist Baron-Cohen's too deterministic thesis that both our genes and our environment largely determine our position on that spectrum because it leaves little place for moral responsibility. This is why President Trump's description of the gunman, Stephen Paddock, as 'pure evil' leaves me so uncomfortable. By describing someone as personifying 'evil' we render that person 'other', unlike 'us', and so places a distance between us. As a theologian, I agree with Baron-Cohen's psychological insight that we are all capable of acts of great cruelty and great compassion and so I would argue that we share a moral obligation to go beyond 'thoughts and prayers' and to act in ways that promote the common good. While we may never fully prevent the killer's actions, we may nonetheless, act positively to change a culture in which violence is endemic and the means to enact it are so readily available[iv] Theologically, this rejects a proper understanding of Augustine's theory of 'original sin', not that we inherit the sinfulness of our parents but that by participation in a common humanity we all bear some measure of responsibility for what happens around us. This why Augustine could say, 'Hope has two beautiful daughters, Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are' because in Miroslav Volf's words, 'Theology is not only about understanding the world; it is about mending the world.'[v] [i]

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/10/03/why-thoughts-and-prayers-is-starting-to-sound-so-profane/?utm\\_term=.f2faad895eb8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/10/03/why-thoughts-and-prayers-is-starting-to-sound-so-profane/?utm_term=.f2faad895eb8)

[ii] [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/06/14/when-people-pray-for-orlando-is-it-empathetic-or-selsh/?tid=a\\_inl&utm\\_term=.32c0573154c4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/06/14/when-people-pray-for-orlando-is-it-empathetic-or-selsh/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.32c0573154c4) [iii]

Baron-Cohen, S. (2011) *Zero Degrees of Empathy: A New Theory of Human Cruelty and Kindness*. London: Penguin. [iv] Extending this argument to include consideration of the increasing use of motor vehicles etc., deliberately to effect mass casualties or deaths lies beyond the immediate cope of this short article. [v] Volf, M. (2011) *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*. Brazos Press.

*Rev Dr Jonathan Pye is Chair of the Bristol District of the Methodist Church. He is a former Principal of Wesley College, Bristol and is Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Research Associate in Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol. He is also an Honorary Bishop of the Joongang Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. A theologian and philosopher, Jonathan has lectured widely in the UK and abroad and published a number of books and articles. He has a special interest in spirituality and medicine and, particularly, end of life issues.*

# Global Church

A strong childhood memory is of reading a copy of my grandmother's magazine 'The Kingdom Overseas', produced by the Methodist Church. The title speaks of a period (late 1950's) when the church was still a part of the mechanism and management of colonial supremacy in many parts of the world. We spoke of missionaries (white of course) going 'out' to faraway lands. That year the Kingdom Overseas December edition consisted of a series of monochrome photographs from different parts of the globe with the simple title 'God so loved India' (or Africa, or the West Indies etc.) 'that he gave his only begotten son'. I'm not sure why the image has stuck for me, as my understanding of the evils of colonialism, and indeed church complicity in that, has grown over the years. In general, Christian thinking has moved a long way and we think of mission as a partnership in ways that my grandmother's generation might not have dreamed of. Aid agencies know that to be effective they must work in partnership with local organisations. Our own actions are now so much more direct than simply putting money in a box to send to the far corners of the world. Whether through direct interventions, signing petitions (Patricia's situation shows that they can work), or by focussed responses to specific appeals, we have the power, with others, to change things. As we approach Christmas in 2017, we pray that God's mercy and love through our own deeds, can reach so many parts of the world. Please remember in your prayers:

- The people of the Caribbean rebuilding after hurricanes;
- The Rohingya people of Burma/Myanmar
- The people of Yemen
- All those displaced from conflict in Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Nigeria
- All those suffering hunger in East Africa, and Malawi
- All those suffering from floods and mudslides in Sierra Leone and South Asia

And remember that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. To the whole world.

# **Fork and Talk is back!**

Feedback from the first round of Fork and Talk events during Lent 2017 was encouraging of further events and we are pleased that the following dates have been agreed for Fork and Talk events in 2018:

**Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Topics for discussion will be Sex, drugs and... no, not rock and roll this time but the concept of a basic citizen's income. All of these issues are highly topical. The Methodist Church will be discussing same sex marriage at its annual conference in June 2018 while the Anglican Church continues to wrestle with the issue. And transgender issues are currently making headline news. The evening discussing at sex and sexuality will be led by Ric Stott, a Methodist Pioneer minister who works as an artist and art psychotherapist. Drug use is far from under control, whatever that means, and the 'war on drugs' has failed. Some countries are finding other means to tackle the problem. The evening looking at drugs will be led by Brendan Wood, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, who has extensive experience of work with substance users. Meanwhile the problems of benefit claims have been highlighted with the roll out of Universal Credit. Citizens' income, a universal payment to all, is a concept now in use in a number of countries to combat poverty and simplify the benefits system. Our discussions will be led by Simon Duffy, founder and director of the Centre for Welfare Reform and a regular speaker on radio and TV. Simon is a local man with a national and international reputation. Preparatory information will be available on each topic early in the New Year. Booking forms will be available in the New Year. Catering for this round of Fork and Talk will be on the lines of Soup and Puddings and volunteers to contribute to the catering would be greatly appreciated. Please see Anne Hollows with offers of help.

## **Food and feasting:**

Making the most of your Christmas ...

Some of you may have received a recent mailing from Christian Aid,



including a colourful little booklet? A sub-title in the booklet is, 'Tis the season to save. Not a notion we often associate with Christmas. So, what does Christmas Aid say?

“Christmas can be expensive ... But with clever planning you can make your festive fare go further ... Cooking creatively not only helps you save money and keep your family well-fed, it's also a great way to reduce your food waste”.

Here's two “Did you know...” facts in the booklet:

- In the UK, we throw away the equivalent of over 250,000 turkeys during the festive period.

- Five million Christmas puddings are thrown away in the UK, every single year.

Pretty staggering!! It did make me ponder, “I wonder how many food bank meals all of that would equate to?” I don't know the answer, but it would be a lot!



Three tips they give for saving:

- Check your cupboards before you go shopping;
- Stick to your list; and
- Plan your portions

Yes, that's all common sense. But sometimes Christmas and common sense don't seem to work well together!

And here is a rather exotic way to use up that Christmas pudding as well as some left over cream:

### **Christmas pudding crème brûlée**

If your family can't face another bite, you'll probably have Christmas pudding going spare on Boxing Day. Try this easy recipe to make the most of your leftovers. Time: 30 minutes. + cooking. Serves 6

500 double cream

1 clementine, zested

1 vanilla pod

3 tbsp light brown sugar

100g caster sugar

150 g Christmas pudding

6 egg yolks \*\*\*

1. Preheat the oven to 150C. Warm the cream in a saucepan over a medium heat. Split the vanilla pod, scrape out the seeds and add them to the cream, along with the clementine zest.
2. Bring the cream to a boil, turn down the heat and leave to simmer for 5 minutes
3. In another bowl, beat the sugar and egg yolks together until pale.
4. Pour the hot cream slowly over the egg mixture, stirring continuously.
5. Break up the Christmas pudding into bite size pieces, and divide between 6 ramekins. Pour the cream mixture on top.
6. Place the ramekins into a large roasting tray and submerge halfway in hot water. Bake for 40-45 minutes until the custard is set, but still wobbly.  
Leave to cool.
7. Before serving, cover the custards with brown sugar and caramelise with a blowtorch or under a very hot grill.

\*\*\* BUT you will have some egg whites left over. They will of course make excellent meringues, perhaps for a New Year meal and while they will keep in the fridge (covered) for 3 weeks, they will also freeze.

## Gardening Notes

As the year rolls around there are still jobs to do in the garden as long as it is not too wet underfoot. Now we are properly in winter after a very late autumn; the first frost was 3 weeks late; it is time for the underlying structure of the garden to be assessed. If you can't reach the top of the apple tree, these are the months when that severe pruning should be done. Cut back to just above a side branch leaving the cut face sloping away from it, but not standing high over it, as that will just die off leaving an entry point for the fungi that can hollow out the xylem.

Remove any branches that are duplicates, those that cross one another and those that are growing into the centre of the tree. An open structure is what you are aiming for to allow light and air to as much of the plant as possible. Light because the sunshine is what gives the best



flavours to the fruit, (why grow poorly flavoured fruit, you can buy that,) and air needs to flow through the tree to reduce moulds and lessen the impact of strong winds.

Plant your garlic as early as you can. This year I am putting an expensive nylon mesh over the site where mine will grow. There is a recently arrived pest, leek leaf miner, whose grubs eat their way down the plant and then pupate in the bulb. The only effective treatment is to keep them out and fleece is apparently not good enough. I lost 80% of my leek and onion crop to this exquisite little inconvenience. I gave up on shallots due to it 2 years ago before I knew what it was. The leeks were bolting and turning to brown mush with tiny, red pupa in the stems.

Don't hit the slugs too hard with the slug pellets. When you do feel you have to use them clear away the bodies over the next 2 days. The Metaldehyde is toxic to anything that eats it second hand; thrushes, hedgehogs and foxes are damaged in this way. In East Anglia the water companies are having to add new plant to filter it out so that we don't drink it. As it does what it does to slugs it can't be good for us!

Hoe out the last of the bedding plants and add them to the compost heap. Rake up what remains of the fallen leaves and put them in a separate pile. The old stack of last year's leaves can be broached to use as mulch under the fruit, both trees and bushes. I protect the crowns of globe artichokes with them as well. This gives mini-beasts somewhere to hide. Make sure any dahlias you are over wintering are dry before you pack them away. Mine did fine with paper packing around them in cardboard boxes. Don't let them get warm before spring and check them from time to time. Mould, woodlice and slugs are the things to look out for. I dusted mine with flowers of sulphur, go lightly with this. As a last reminder: your indoor pot plants need very little water at this time of year. If it is not dry don't water it. They can't swim!

Have a good Christmas & a Happy New Year, Bill

## **Eco Church: The Conference**

Yes, it really happened. Last October 21<sup>st</sup> SAPLC was privileged to host the Northern Regional Conference of "A Rocha UK" and "Shrinking the Footprint", two leading organisations with profound environmental concerns. What a day it was. Well over 100 people came, some having

travelled well over 100 miles (as greenly as possible). There were also organisers, speakers, and many helpers from SAPLC. To the last especially, many many thanks but well done everybody. During the day in our warm and comfortable church, we learnt about the work of A Rocha particularly, and how concern for the environment is so much a part of the Gospel. We heard about eco-initiatives in two local Churches (one our own), and in Scotland. We were introduced to and later attended surgeries on: Worship and Teaching; Management of Church Buildings; Management of Church Land; Community and Global Engagement; and Lifestyle.

Of course we drank (coffee and tea), we ate (thank you St. Mary's Bramhall Lane for lovely food), we chatted and discussed, we exchanged opinions and phone numbers, and we worshipped. The weather was iffy and the paths around the church, having been cleared of fallen leaves beforehand, remained relatively so.

Afterwards there was much tidying up to do, but we hope all went home with thankful hearts, having both learnt and enjoyed. In the next few months, our Church Council will be looking at some of the ideas and suggestions that could be used further to improve our eco-church credentials.

One Church member commented on the day (edited highlights): well-informed and articulate speakers; thoughtful and caring attenders; (perhaps) more should be done to approach opinion and decision makers (locally and nationally).

Another church member reported (again edited highlights): I discovered some interesting facts about our own churchyard; we should invite a local expert to help us do a plant survey; we could all learn more about renewables; It's definitely not all about doom and gloom.

As a kind of postscript, our Church eco-group is looking to raise its profile locally. So please, if you are interested do come and join us, we would like to think we are very approachable. And do look out, in the next Nexus, for an article on the challenging "Carbon Conversations" course which some of us have been attending.

*Anthony Ashwell*

## Nether Edge Farmers' Market

The Christmas Nether Edge Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 3rd December between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. Father Christmas will be there in his grotto and there will be almost 100 wonderful stalls.

Entertainment will be provided by a fantastic collection of local bands including the Salvation Army Band, Endcliffe Brass, Tin Soldiers, Fairy Cakes and Glazed. Don't miss it! New visitors will find us at the Nether Edge traffic lights along Nether Edge Road and part of Glen Road. We've raised over £60,000 for local charities.

## Young People's News

### What do Brownies get up to?

Each Nexus details where and when the 17<sup>th</sup> Sheffield Brownies meet. Here is a chance to find out what they get up to, in their own words.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's Brownies : comments from Monday Brownie Pack

We are the Brownies of St Andrew's Hall. We have done lots.

**Horse riding:** The first thing we did this term was horse riding. It was great fun and I loved the bumpiness! *Olive*

We learnt how to turn the horse, how to stop and start and make the



horse go faster. I rode a nice little pony called Yorkie. The place where we rode the horses was called Smeltings Farm. *Imogen*  
**Yarnstorming:** To start off with we did some finger knitting. Then we handed in all our stuff and Snowy got all the knitting hung up around lots of trees near us. We had lots of fun. *Anna*

The next week we followed the yarnstorming trail. I saw a bird made of wool. In Chelsea Park, I made my Brownie Promise by a tree decorated with our yarnstorming. I was very nervous, but it went well. *Matilda*

**The Sawmill:** One of the things we did this term was go to the (Ecclesall) sawmill. Misha's dad told us lots of things about how to bend



wood. He showed us some onions and apples (his sculptures) made of wood. At the end we got some wooden sticks and toasted marshmallows. What fun!

**The Harvest:** First we decorated paper bags. Then we filled them with goodies. The next Monday we all met at St Andrew's church and split up into groups of three or four. Then we went around to care homes, flats and houses for the elderly people and gave them our bags of food. They were all very grateful. *Anna*

It made me happy seeing the reactions on their faces. I like to give them company because they probably don't get it from young people that much. *Misha*

**Operation Christmas Child:** We do Christmas child boxes because we know it's good to be kind to children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. In the Christmas child boxes we put lovely things like pencils and pens and useful things like toothbrush and toothpaste. We put in fun stuff so they can have fun. And we put in things they need so they can have hygiene for as long as the supplies last. We decorated the boxes in lovely colourful Christmas paper to stop the boxes looking dull. *Imogen*

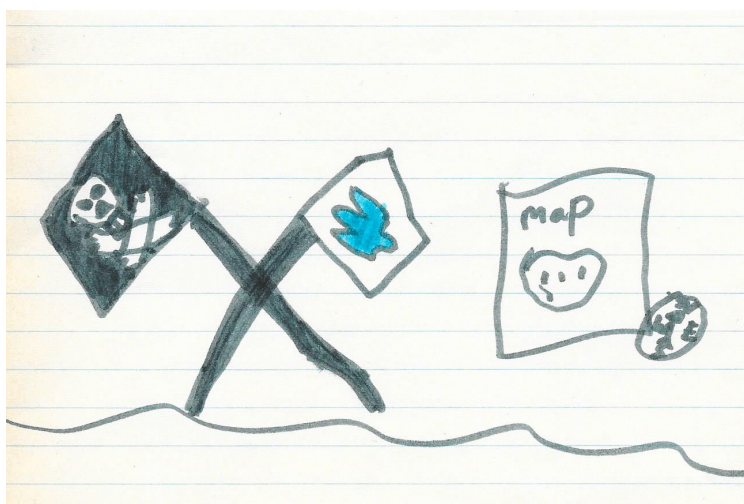
**Pack Holiday:** After half term we went on Pack Holiday which was one of the best things we have done at Brownies. We went tree climbing, den building and we also learnt some knots. *Molly*

We stayed in a building with dorms and beds. The teams were Swallows and Amazons. The next day we went to the gift shop. I bought some polo mints and a toy fox. We went on a treasure hunt with tracking signs and found some sweets. It was fun. I liked it there. I was tired afterwards because I stayed up late but I did get to sleep. I made a new

friend called Aimie. We were both Artists. *Belle*

I was in the Swallows dorm with Katy, Me, Alexandra, Noulla and Aimie. We laid a treasure hunt and I hid sweets on the roof of a shed. We found the ones that the Amazons had hidden. *Olive.*

*Thanks to Chris Venables for*



*compiling this fascinating collection and for all her work with the Brownies.*



## **Art Gallery Evening for Young people aged 11-16**

A Christmas themed evening at 35 Chapel Walk Art Gallery for young people aged 11-16 from across Sheffield Circuit. This promises to be a fun filled evening, and will include food, Christmas movies, Nativity themed Art Exhibition, Christmas themed creative responses, Hot Chocolate, Marshmallows and more...

The evening starts at 6pm and will finish at 11pm. It'd be great if you could stay for the whole evening, although you can leave early if you need to. There's a 5 pound charge for the evening to cover food and refreshment costs; do let us know if that's an issue, as we wouldn't want finances to stop anyone from coming.

To book your place, contact Jonathan Buckley on 07450 778678 or [jonathan.buckley@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.buckley@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk).

## **Christmas card tree for HARC**

The tree, collecting box, card to sign and gift aid forms will be in Church from Sunday 10th Dec. For anyone new to our Church, those of us who wish send one card to the whole congregation and the money saved on cards and stamps is donated to the Sheffield charity, Homeless and Rootless at Christmas (HARC).

Rodney & Marilyn

## **Church and Community**

### **Knit and Knatter**

Mondays 10-12 noon Knit and Knatter. In Shirley House. Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638.

### **Parent and Baby Group**

**New baby in the family?** Join our friendly group of parents - Mums and/or Dads with babies up to 12 months. Friday mornings during term time 10.00 – 11.30 at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. It's a chance to meet other new parents in friendly relaxed surroundings. Refreshments teas, coffees, other beverages and home made cakes. Cost: £1. 50 per family per week Contact Muriel on 2551473 or Jean 2550198

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sheffield Monday Brownies

Mondays at St Andrew's Hall from 5.45pm – 7.15pm. If you are at all interested, please contact me for further information.  
Chris Venables. 07950 432487.



## Church Family

### Our congratulations and good wishes go to

Pamela Durling following her 90th birthday

Marilyn and Rodney Godber on their Golden Wedding

We rejoice that Patricia Simeon has been released from Yarls Wood Detention Centre and returned to live with the Cripps family. Thanks to all who supported the campaign and we wait in hope for news of Patricia's new asylum application.



## **Our thoughts and prayers are with**

Pam Frost and her family following the death of her son David  
Elizabeth Dey and family following the death of her brother William  
Vernon

Olivia Cox and her husband Alistair Dempster as Alistair undergoes  
further treatment

We send our best wishes to

Olga Kiprianova, who has moved from Sheffield to live nearer her  
granddaughter Lisa. Olga leaves St Andrew's Psalter Lane with very fond  
memories and wishes to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness  
she has received.

Isolyn Jackson, who has recently broken her hip and is now living with  
her daughter in London.

## **Young SAPLC**

**Sandcastles:** Our monthly service for younger children and their  
parents/carers is on the second Sunday of the month at 9.15. All church  
members are welcome to attend these services and share in the  
worship with this part of the church family.

**Junior Church:** (Pebbles 3-5, Stones 6-10,) is during the main service  
at 10.30. Children between 2 and 3 can join in the youngest group  
(Pebbles) with a parent/carer)

## **About our services**

### **Sunday Services**

**Normal pattern:** 10.30 am Service: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Holy  
Communion service; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Morning Worship

**Monthly services:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Sandcastles at 9.15 am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at 9.15 am (using Common Worhsip and  
the Book of Common Prayer)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion at Southcroft, 6.30 pm

Please note that the bread used in our communion services is gluten  
free. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are used.

### **Wednesday Services**

At the 10.00 Communion service on Wednesdays, we reflect together  
on a piece of spiritual writing. This may be from one of the Christian

traditions, or sometimes from another tradition of faith. The person leading the service will make copies of the piece of writing to give out to everyone. Come and enjoy an oasis of reflective calm in the middle of a busy week, and join us for coffee or tea afterwards.

**Taize Prayer during advent** will take place on Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 20th December.

**The church is open Tuesday to Thursday** between 11am and 1.30 pm for prayer and reflection.

## CHURCH DIARY DECEMBER

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am – 3.00 pm	Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group Farmers Market	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Property and Finance Meeting	Interfaith Room
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	ECC Meeting	Narthex
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Sheffield Carols - traditional Sheffield Carols with live music, Christmas gift stalls and homemade refreshments. Admission free.	Church

## JANUARY 2018

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Property and Finance Meeting	Interfaith Room
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Worship Planning meeting	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Eco-Group meeting	Narthex

## DECEMBER – JANUARY SERVICES

<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>
10.30 am	Holy Communion, Gift Service and Advent Carol Service <i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>December 6th</b>	
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Advent
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
9.15 am	Sandcastles

10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>December 13th</b>		
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Advent	
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>		
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
3.00 pm	Crib Service for toddlers and their families	
6.30 pm	Christmas Carol Service	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>December 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Advent	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
5.00 pm	Christingle Service – the Christmas story re-told	
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Christmas Day</b>		
10.30 am	Family Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>		
<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b>		
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Graham Wassell</i>
<b>January 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Epiphany</b>		
10.30 am	Covenant Service and Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>January 14<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>The Baptism of Christ</b>		
9.15 am	Sandcastles	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
<b>January 21<sup>st</sup></b>		
<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
<b>January 28<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Imogen Clout</i>

**At the Covenant Service on 7<sup>th</sup> January we will be joined by friends from the other Mission Partnership Churches, St Augustine's, St Mary's Bramall Lane and Ste Peter and St Oswald's**

# Sheffield Carols

at

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church S11 8YL



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30-9pm**

**Entrance free**

**A great family evening singing  
Sheffield Carols**

Homemade soup and cakes

Christmas gift stalls