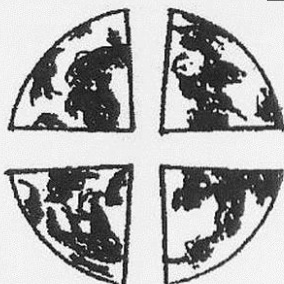


Mayfield Church and Village News

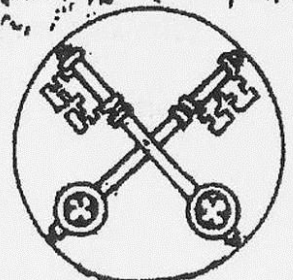


**We Welcome
Our New Minister
Chamil Fernando**



**JULY
2024**

80p



Progress

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. (Matthew 13:31)

I wonder if you knew that Charles Duell who headed up a patent office famously predicted how the offices would need to be scaled back because "Everything that can be invented has been invented". This was in 1889 just before the invention of electric light bulbs, padded bike seats, zips, and filing cabinets. This was swiftly followed by an explosion of electrical inventions and the understanding of the universe with the two theories of relativity from Einstein (who had himself been a patent clerk).

Things move on – we call it "progress" when we think it was a good thing and "decay" when we don't like it.

As I write, we are caught in the fever of election campaigning and the promises of what the progress will be. You may know the result of the election by the time this is read and understand the truth and value and the breakthroughs and the new hope that the country will undoubtedly know by then.

In Alton, the 5-year lease on our duplicator will end by September and the magazine will cease to publish the events and progress of the Church there, while the Mayfield magazine has no such plan and hopes to continue far into the future. The Alton magazine material will shift into the online world.

All the Churches of our Benefice already have an online presence, it is in the nationally provided achurchnearyou.com website but we also have links to our own websites and Facebook & various other forms of social media wherever the Christians are involved.

Things have always moved on. When Christianity was new in Mercia, it was the Christians who realised healing was required and they started hospitals, similarly with learning through the founding of schools and universities. Social progress was begun as ordinary people were empowered to step out from just looking after themselves and to look to the needs of others as the Bible challenges us. (Ephesians 6:2)

Sometimes the progress isn't as wonderful as we thought, and you might have heard of the new "dumbphones" which let you communicate but don't do social media as some people feel it is taking too much of their time.

There are two sorts of progress that Christians are encouraged into. Firstly, is the visible progress of the Gospel into the world, as we teach people what Jesus says that excites and encourages us in our faith and can bring healing and wholeness to others in the world. (See Matt 13:31 at the top of the page)

Secondly is the quiet growth of the Gospel in each believer, as we take deeper into our very selves the message of how God loves us and brings his forgiveness and new life into each believer who learns to trust in God and not merely worry about the world. (See Matt 13:33 at the bottom).

So we are encouraged into progress. I am sure very few of us still have the car we enjoyed 20 years ago, we have moved on, taken hold of our fear, thrown caution to the wind and stepped out into the unknown. [continued next page]

A Warm Welcome to Sunday Services in July

Sunday 7th July (Trinity 6)

10.45am Morning Prayer. Service led by Charles with support from the Lay Team

Thursday 11th July

7.00pm Licensing of Revd. Chamil Fernando by the Rt Rev Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford. All Welcome

Sunday 14th July (Trinity 7)

Holy Communion Revd. Brian Leathers and Revd. Chamil Fernando

Sunday 21st (Trinity 8)

1045 Morning Prayer Revd. Chamil Fernando

Sunday 28th (Trinity 9)

1045 Morning Prayer by the Lay Team

[continued from previous page]

What do you pray that the future holds for you? Will you seek progress with God?
He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Matthew 13:33) Brian Leathers (June 2024)

THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

The Licensing

of

Rev Chamil Fernando

as

Associate Minister in the Weaver Benefice

by

The Rt Revd Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford

At the Church of St John the Baptist, Mayfield

on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7pm

All welcome. Refreshments after service

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We Welcome our New Minister to Mayfield



Our new associate minister Chamil Fernando has now arrived in Mayfield and is living at the Vicarage with his wife Evangeline, daughter Keziah, son Chael and baby Daughter Kleiah (3 months). Chamil and family are looking forward to meeting Mayfield residents and parishioners and would like to thank all those who so generously donated furniture and fittings for the Vicarage itself.

Overleaf Chamil writes his first letter and article for the magazine and talks about his journey that has brought him to Mayfield.

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

Chamil Fernando -Associate Minister for Mayfield

Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and his mercies never comes to an end.

All that I remember from my childhood is being a naughty boy that no one could handle except my mother. Soon after I returned from school I would find my favourite place in a Guava tree just in front of our house. When I went missing my mother knew where I was and she would come behind me with a stick to get me home for my homework. Being the only child in the family, my parents desire was to bring up as a God fearing, caring and responsible human being to society and I believe I have come along that path way and in the right direction in life.

I started trying to learn more about the “purpose of life” and my father guided me in laying a solid foundation for it through the word of God. He was a faithful Anglican worshipper and a churchwarden in one of the church of England churches in Sri Lanka and I consider myself blessed to learn the Anglican traditions/liturgy through my father from the age of 6 years. One of his dreams was to see me one day as a Clergyman in the church of England and it wasn't a easy task for me with the challenges I had in my early 20's.

Soon after I completed my advance level studies at Wesley College, Colombo, I got an opportunity to serve at Ceylon Bible Society as the All Island Youth Coordinator and subsequently I was in preparation to enter the Theological college. At this time my father fell very ill due to an unfortunate bankruptcy situation that took place in his bank he was employed at. This was one of the hardest periods in my life but God gave me all the strength required to face that situation. However, reluctantly, but prayerfully, I had to navigate the process of entering theological college whilst looking for a secular career to take care of my family's day to day needs.

With God's blessings I was able to join one of Sri Lanka's largest telecommunications service providers (Dialog Axiata) as a Trainee officer.

However my desire to serve the kingdom of God never left me and knowing this my parish priest spoke to me one day about a new concept that the Diocese of Colombo was going to introduce for people who desired to serve God while being a secular worker. Tears of joy came to eyes when my priest told me ‘Go grab this opportunity and apply for it, God will lead you through as you are longing for it’.

Working for one of the top telecommunication companies in Sri Lanka for 18+ years has developed my skills in communication and leadership, and I was able to climb up in my career path to a Unit Manager position and in 2020 I made a decision to commit myself in to full time ministry in the Kingdom of God.

During my career I have come across many people from different cultures/religions/races/casts and I was able to set an example to them through the Love of God. I believe I have left a Godly footprint within my colleagues.

While being a Self-Supporting Minister (SSM), I got an opportunity to serve in one of the Church of England Elderly Care Homes for destitute in Sri Lanka in 2011. There we had fifty plus inmates with different religions, races, cultures and I overlooked the full operations of the Home as the Director, along with another five board members. Elderly Care Home ministry started to add new skills in me as I had to work with many religious leaders and health care sector professionals, to fulfil my tasks. It was a great pleasure to mingle with different religious and cultural activities to make the inmates of the Elders Home happy while maintaining the Christian values as core.

In terms of the church ministry, I started to serve my home parish, as the Anglican Vicar for Union Church which was the only church where four denominations worship together in Sri Lanka. (Anglican, Methodist, Christian Reformed and Baptists) This created greater ecumenism, working to promote Christian unity and cooperation among different Christian denominations.

In 2019 I got the opportunity to participate in a formation course at Canterbury Cathedral and in 2020 the opportunity to Study at St Hild College Sheffield for 3 years to enhance my theological knowledge, while serving as the Asst Curate at Christ Church Armley (Diocese of Leeds), during which I gained greater depth of ministry life in UK.

With all of this experience and God's given talent and strength, I look forward to work with the Mayfield community for the Glory of God. My wife Evangeline, elder Daughter Keziah, Son Chael and younger Daughter Kleiah (3 months) are looking forward to meet you all and to make new friends.

God bless you, With Love and Prayers, Chamil

THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

*The Licensing of
Rev Chamil Fernando*

as

*Associate Minister in the Weaver Benefice by
The Rt Revd Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford
At the Church of St John the Baptist, Mayfield
on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7pm*

All welcome. Refreshments after service

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Mayfield Heritage Group

Wellington Memorial Service led by Charles Wimbush

Sunday 9th June, 2024

We were delighted to welcome some fifty people to the 80th Anniversary service to commemorate the Wellington Aircraft disaster, MK 10 LP397, a Canadian training flight which came to ground in the field behind the Church Yard on the 13th June, 1944. The entire crew lost their lives.

Pat Smith, then aged eight years, was a pupil at Mayfield Church School and clearly remembers that day in June and was able to share his memories during the service; the entire village “shook” due to the resulting explosion. The Heritage Group hold a comprehensive archive, some of which was included in the Service and displayed in the Church.

Over the years Fran and Bob Carlisle have made contact with relatives of those who were lost and this has added a very personal dimension, with Bob reading out letters from the crew to families back in Canada in the days before the crash, saying they were safe in England, little did they know.

We welcomed Linda Thain and her husband to the service; Linda is indirectly related, through her mother, to Sergeant William Patterson, who was her mother's first husband; he was the Radio Operator on the aircraft. The Stevens family, relatives of Sergeant James Joseph Urban Stevens, and who live in Canada, provided a beautiful floral tribute to be laid in their absence.

There were five wreaths laid at the Memorial; the Heritage Group gave particular attention to the floral content of their wreath to include the Canadian colours, red and white, with a blue thistle for Scotland. We asked Bethany Allen, granddaughter of Geoff Allen, to make the wreath and she followed our instructions to the letter.

Let's express our thanks to the congregation who came to support us on a rather cold June day (fortunately the rain just about held off) and to all of those who helped in various roles throughout the day in what was a sincere tribute to the young men who lost their lives. Musical accompaniment was provided by the Osmaston Wind Band.

There was hot tea and coffee in the Church following the service and a very warm atmosphere with plenty of conversation and fellowship.

On the following pages is a photographic record of the day and a very poignant service.

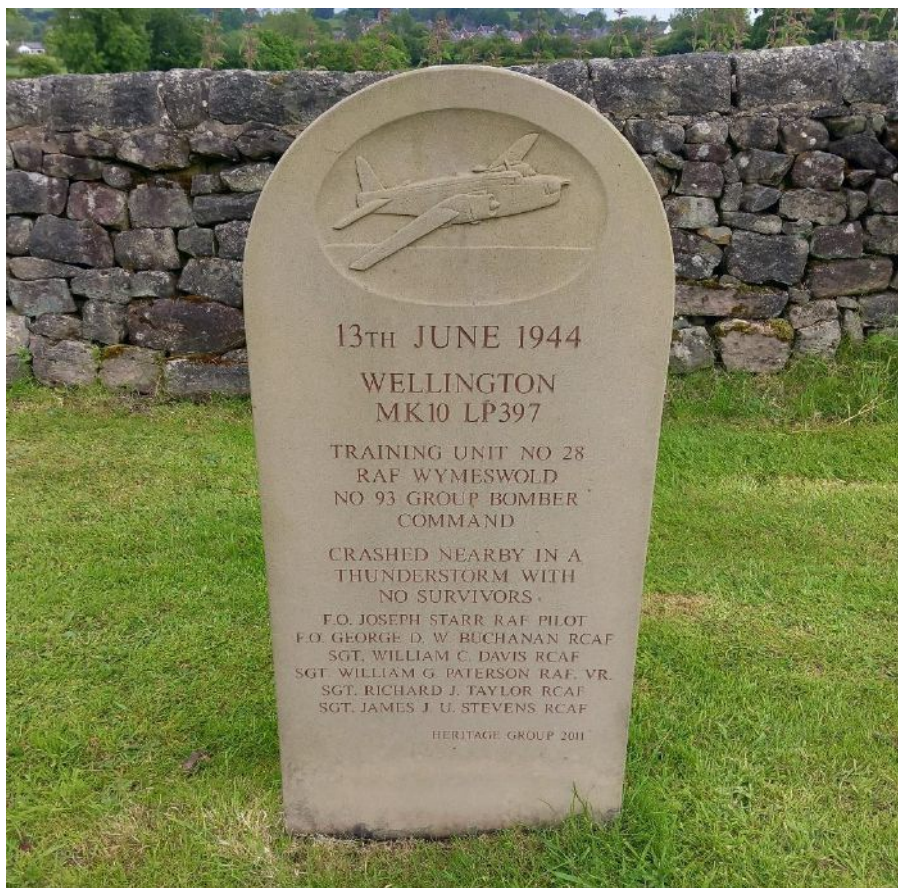


It was a large congregation that gathered in the church yard on a cloudy, but thankfully not rainy day, to commemorate this special occasion and also to remember D-Day itself and the sacrifices that were made by so many at a turning point in World War 2. Osmaston Wind Band provided music both for the hymns and during the service at key times.



The memorial to the crew of the crash Wellington bomber provided the central focus of the service and all eyes were directed towards it both during the service itself and with the laying of the wreaths .

1st Mayfield Scouts took part in the service ,as they do at many other commemorative services at the church; first parading down to the service through the village and then placing the Union Jack and their own banner carefully behind the memorial to act as a backdrop during the service itself.





The laying of the wreaths was at the very centre of the service with five wreaths laid from various organisations within the village, all a tribute and a memory to the Wellington crew who so sadly lost their lives as did so many in the War,





The Heritage Group archive provided a fascinating and touching display, within the church, both of the crew members and the setting up of the memorial in 2011, which people could view whilst enjoy refreshments at the end a very memorable service.



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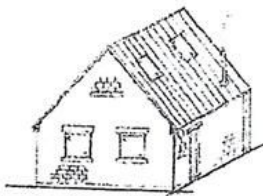
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The Friday Club Commemorates the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with a Special D-Day Afternoon Tea.

The 80th anniversary of D-Day was a very special occasion indeed and the Friday club wanted to celebrate it with a special commemorative D Day tea on Friday 7th June, just a day after the 80th anniversary of the D day landings that took place on 6th June 1944. For this special occasion the Union Jack flag was flying above the door of the Memorial Hall and for the commemorative tea there were special guests talking through their memories of D Day and the war.



Club members all pulled together to make it a day to remember with sandwiches, cakes and dessert along, of course with that all important cup of tea, with teacups lined up, patiently awaiting their use!

Before the tea itself there were reminiscences from the Revd. Ray Owen about his family members who were involved in bombing raids in the run up to D-Day and his quest to find out more information about where his family members had struck German bases and had unfortunately lost their lives in doing so. Ray brought memorabilia to accompany his talk showing details of his family and his quest to find out key information.





Ray was followed by Pat Smith who gave his own memories of the war and the fateful D-Day invasion. Pat also brought along the Mayfield British Legion flag and explained its history and how it has been used in commemorative events in the village, including his own time of carrying the flag, taking it over from Owen Parker and now passing it on to Owens son John Parker. The British Legion flag in Mayfield is a poignant reminder of the sacrifice that so many made.

The talks completed the Friday club enjoyed their special commemorative tea. However on this special occasion, that tea was supplemented by a drink from the bar for everyone courtesy of Mayfield Memorial Hall who donated the drinks to the club for free.



The tea was accompanied by music and speeches from the Second World War ranging from Chamberlain's speech in September 1939 announcing that we were now at war with Germany, through the Churchills victory in Europe speech and all mixed with Vera Lynn and Glen Miller, It made a fitting soundtrack for the afternoon and at the conclusion of the tea everyone who attended agreed the afternoon was a proper and fitting tribute to a key time in our nation's history.

Our thanks to all club members who worked hard to make this event happen.

The club meets on Friday 5th and 19th in July, and all are welcome to attend.



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The Beauty of Mayfield – A Perfect View?



It's a perfect countryside view. An ancient tree overhangs a rural lane, hedgerows are covered in cow parsley and all perfectly frame a picture of tree covered hills; with sheep grazing in the valley fields – and all in Church Lane Mayfield!

Memorial Hall News - A Sporting Month This July.

It's all about sport this month at the Memorial Hall with two great events.

Firstly...Its Tales from the Dressing Room, An Evening with Eric Steele, former professional goalkeeper and coach at Manchester United and Derby County. This legend of the sport is being interviewed by **Ed Dawes from BBC Radio Derby, on Friday 5th July at 8pm** and Eric will be giving us the inside track on exactly what happened at Manchester United and Derby County and in particular what really happened when a certain football boot hit a certain footballer, called David Beckham, on the head.

It's a night not to be missed and all proceeds of the evening will be split between Mayfield Panthers football club, the MRA and the Memorial Hall. Tickets are £10 and call Graham on 07341 335479. It's one Football fans will not want to miss.

Secondly ...It's a Night at the Races - Racing Comes to Mayfield.



Everyone enjoys a flutter on the races even if it's just for Grand National and this month the races are coming to Mayfield so we could all enjoy that flutter and the fun of racing right in the heart of our community.

And better still our Racing is raising funds for two important Mayfield groups, Mayfield football club and the MRA Mayfield recreation association. It all takes place on **Saturday 27th July** and a night at the races, in association with Kay & Co hairstylist, is coming to Mayfield Memorial Hall.

It's your chance to have a flutter on your favourites all night long and your £7.50 entrance fee includes food as well - what more could you want.

Doors open at 6:00 PM and the racing starts 7:00 PM giving you plenty of time to get that first drink in and study the form. It is a ticket only event and tickets are available from the bar at Memorial Hall or by calling Liam Souter on 07794 082405.

And Finally..... Apparently, there is a General Election on (who knew) and **the Hall will be Mayfield's Polling Station for The General Election on Thursday 4th July from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.**



Mayfield Memorial Hall

Forthcoming events

Mayfield Arms Sunday Openings. 2pm -7pm

7th 14th 21st & 28th JULY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JULY 2024

Monday 1st 8th 15th 22nd 28th -Line Dancing 7pm-9pm.

Tuesday 2nd 4th 9th 16TH 23rd 30th- Indoor Bowls 10.30-12.30am

Friday 5th 19th - NEW Mayfield Friday Club

2pm - 4pm Everyone is welcome including non members.

Tuesday & Thursday Evening in Term Time , 1st Mayfield Scouts and Beavers.

Tuesdays 2nd /9th 6.30pm -8pm Scouts, Thursday 11th 6pm -7pm Beavers And Cubs. Contact Katy Lewis for full details 07961824674

Thursday 4th July - Polling Sation General Election 7am -10pm

Friday 5th July Eric Steele Football Celebrity Evening 8pm. Doors open 7pm Tickets £10 call Graham Sowter 07341 335 479

Saturday 13th July Country Music Club with Live Music. Doors open 7pm, Artist on 8.30pm.

Saturday 27th July RACE NIGHT supporting Mayfield FC. Tickets £7.50 (inc. food) from Liam Sowter 07794 082405

PLUS

England Euro Games

Bar open for all England Euro games on the big screen

And

Euro Final Sunday 14th July (hopefully with England!)

Mayfield Watches the Euro's, (well the England games that is!)

it's the start of a summer of sport with the Olympics on horizon and to start it all during the month of June and July we have the UEFA European Football Championships or just the EURO's as they are affectionately known.

And to celebrate this Fiesta of football the Memorial Hall has been opening up especially for the England games to be watched on the Halls newly installed giant 75 inch high definition television.

At that size and that that quality every goal scored together with every foul could easily be seen.



The whole hall itself was ready for the first England game with the England flag waving outside and yet more flags and bunting inside.



Tables and chairs were laid out all facing the television and the fans were there ready for kick-off whatever day and time the group matches started.



And as a real incentive to come and watch the game live, Graham the bar chairman at the Memorial Hall reduced the price of beer to just £3 a pint during England's first game.



As we go to press we know that England have got through their group matches – only just mind, and are now down to the last 16. Who knows by the time you read this they could be playing in the quarter finals and then the semis and who knows maybe even the final. However, let's not tempt fate but just enjoy the matches as they come. And the Memorial Hall will be open for every England match - get there early.

Mix Ups!

Can you work out what these should be? Some of them are more than one word

1. B D E I L M N O W
2. A B E E I R R R S S T W
3. A A D M N R R U Y Y
4. C H L O O O S S T U
5. A D E H I L M M O R S S U Y
6. E E I L N O R S S T V
7. A C E I N R V W
8. A D H I N S S S T T U W Y
9. A I P R S
10. A C E G I L M M O P S Y

Monthly Sillies!

Why was the Olympian not allowed to listen to music?

Because he kept breaking records!

What do gymnasts and bananas have in common? They can both do the splits!

What kind of exercises are best for swimmers? Pool-ups!

Why is basketball the messiest Olympic sport?

Because the players dribble all over the court!

Why does Cinderella never win the Olympics?

She has a pumpkin for a coach and she runs away from the ball

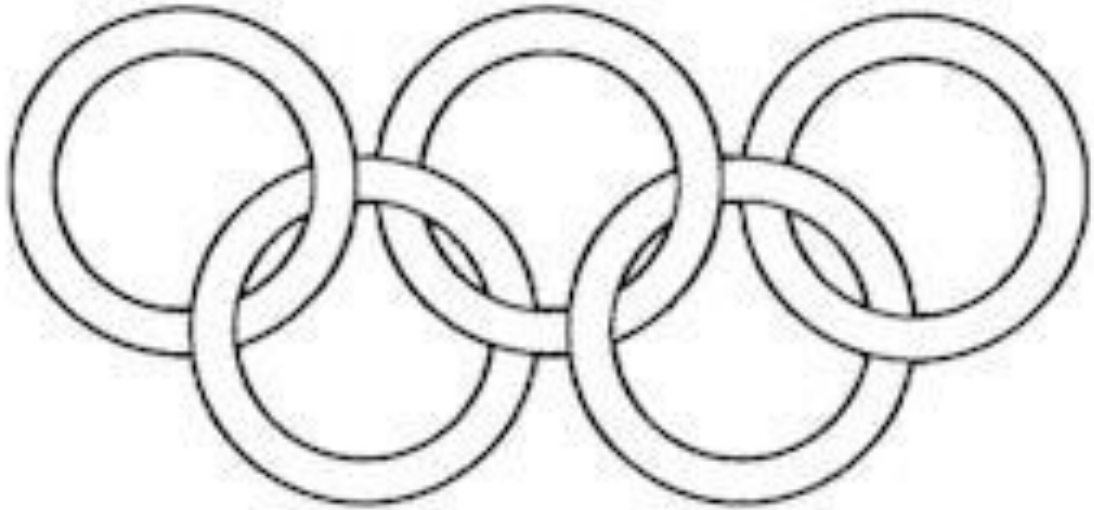
Why did the spotted cat get disqualified from the Olympics? It was a cheetah.

Why couldn't the bike finish the Olympic race? It was two-tired.

What is the best part of an Olympic boxer's joke? The punch line.

Answers: 1. Wimbledon 2. Strawberries 3. Andy Murray 4. Schools Out 5. Summer Holidays 6. Silverstone 7. New Vicar 8. St Swithuns Day 9. Paris 10. Olympic Games

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After lockdown we started group sessions again in small groups of 5 clients and 1 instructor. Clients have their own pair of Nordic Walking poles. We carry wipes and hand sanitising gel and ask clients to do the same. While walking we are social distancing with staying Poles Apart.

Power of Poles intro course. Find out how to use fitness walking poles to achieve the results YOU want. So, if you're keen to come out with us, you can be sure we will do our best to make it a safe and rewarding experience. If you have been enjoying your daily walk and are looking to learn about the Power of Poles, please give me a call.

For details contact: **White Peak Nordic Walking:** Janneke Gorzeman 07469895267.
Janneke@nwukwhitepeak.co.uk Or book now: www.nwukwhitepeak.co.uk

Mobile Library Service Dates for May, June & July 2024

The mobile library comes to Mayfield on Tuesday 7^h & 21st May, 4th & 18th June and 2nd & 16th July at the junction of Mayfield Avenue and The Crescent from 10.30 to 10.45 am

MAYFIELD VILLAGE WEBSITES

Mayfield's Church website

www.mayfieldparishchurch.org

Mayfield Memorial Hall

www.mayfieldmemorialhall.org.uk

Mayfield Heritage Group

www.mayfieldheritage.org.uk

_Mayfield Parish Council

www.mayfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

MARNA. <https://marna.org.uk/>.

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Morse Visits the Spa

Everyone deserves a treat on their birthday! And so, I decided to take Kim on a half day spa visit to Moddershall Oaks for her birthday at the beginning of June.

An afternoon of pure relaxation – just what we both needed!

We arrived at 11.30am for a guided tour and welcome mocktail – a definite flavour of elderflower and quite pleasant and refreshing. We were shown all the facilities available to us and handed our robes and towels to store in our locker. My robe was a little on the large side and did trail behind me but it did the job.

Before we changed and to prepare ourselves for the afternoon ahead, we enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch in the Oak House restaurant. The menu choices were amazing and such a lovely change from my Butternut Box and chicken and biscuit meals.

We both opted for hoisin duck Staffordshire oatcake as our starter! Wow – really ticked my taste buds! Kim then had carrot and cumin stuffed chicken fillet whereas I chose leek and mushroom tagliatelle – far removed from my comfort zone but I thought nothing ventured, nothing gained and let's just try something completely different to my normal diet. It's not easy eating pasta though, is it?

Kim decided on a glass of wine to accompany this feast but, even though I was tempted, I decided to stick to water for now!

Lunch was absolutely delicious and opened my eyes to the options actually out there and I now understand why Kim has so many cookery books. Food combinations and choices are endless and this experience really has made me consider my food habits for the future.

Then we were ready to get into our swimwear and sample full access to the indoor and outdoor facilities. Where to go first? We decided on the indoor jacuzzi – oh, it was so warm and relaxing.

I'm not really one to immerse myself in water even though the original poodle was a water dog known for its water retrieving abilities. I clearly haven't inherited that particular gene!

I enjoy a bit of a paddle and will even get my tummy wet on a hot day but total submersion and swimming - no, not for me! But I thought, it's Kim's birthday, I must make sure she has a good day – she so deserves it! In I went! I loved it! And when we got the bubbles going, what a thrill!! We had such a giggle.

I kept floating off to the other side, Kim couldn't stop laughing and the other spa guests thought we were both hilarious – I think we made their day! Everyone wanted to get in with us but numbers were limited and they had to take turns.

Eventually, we thought we ought to try some of the other facilities and opted for the paw spa. My little paws have never felt so wonderful – what a treat. Kim and Mal have dipped my paws in warm water occasionally when we've had a particularly muddy walk but I'm afraid their spa treatment falls short compared to Moddershall Oaks.

We then felt the need to have a lie down and get re-hydrated so we filled our beakers, laid back, chatted and put the world to rights. Real mother/dog bonding time!!

After a while, I fancied a tropical shower. Tropical rain, mist, monsoon and cold waterfall, music, lighting and coconut aromas. Who would ever have thought it? A poodle in a tropical shower! I need to have a word with my groomer – she needs to up her game!!

From that, it had to be the tiled and heated loungers – maximum comfort and deep warmth – more time to chat, laugh and enjoy each other's company. What a treat!!

We are both adventurous types and wanted to experience everything!! The steam room – temperature around 110°F – dry heat and humidity. My skin had never felt anything like it and my joints and muscles were so relaxed – my breathing seemed calm and clear and those toxins just disappeared. I didn't even know I had toxins until they left me!

We then headed for the outdoor jacuzzi – not as warm as we thought it would be BUT waitress service!! Excellent!! I chose a beef, broccoli and blueberry smoothie – so good, I had to have two! – and Kim, a mango and pineapple mojito – so good, she had to have four!!!! Luckily, she wasn't driving!!!

We did begin to get a bit chilly so decided on the sauna to warm us up. My aim was just to warm up but Kim was also convinced that losing a bit of weight, reducing her leg pain, anti-aging, rejuvenating her skin, improving her immune function and her sleep and lowering her stress levels would be achieved!!!

The time just whizzed by and our 25-minute treatments were nearly due. We showered, got changed and had a coffee.

Kim chose a wine bath hydrotherapy treatment – fancy that??!! A bath infused with wine!!! She came out very happy!!!

I went for an Indian head massage – always fancied one of those. Not just the head though – upper back, shoulders, neck and then scalp and then forehead, eyes, face – wow!!! And the oils!! Ooooh coconut and almond – gorgeous!! I certainly smelt better than when I rolled in fox poo recently!!



Then we were done! What a day!! Amazing food, wonderful experience and a real chance to catch up in a relaxed atmosphere with no pressures. Marvellous!!!

I think I'll treat Mal next time – then I can go again!!!

Many of you will - like me - have been very moved by the various D-Day programmes. Being a songwriter, I tend to express my feelings in song. I've tried to capture something of the horror and terror of that first day (remember, many of the allied soldiers were little more than teenagers, with no previous experience of combat). So here it is: 'D-Day Heroes' (to the tune of 'Lily Marlene') Arnie Rainbow 8 June 2024

D-Day Heroes (to 'Lily Marlene')

1. They call us D-Day heroes out in Normandy
Crouched and cold and huddled, barely seventeen
Shivering in our lander, scared as hell
But pledged to ring the freedom bell
Twenty D-Day heroes out in Normandy

2. The steel bow door creaks and groans
A hail of lead cuts to the bone
Six mates float dead, we wade in fear
Each one wond'ring is my end near?
Fourteen D-Day heroes out in Normandy

3. Sodden, scared at the bloody scene
A landmine blows, now we're thirteen
Soon we're twelve as an 88
Takes out Len, such hangs our fate
For us D-Day heroes out in Normandy

4. Tank traps shield, all we can find
Spandaus rattle, we're down to nine
Orders scream 'push up the beach,
Bangalores will blast a breach'
For intrepid D-Day heroes out in Normandy

5. We've cracked the wall, they're on the run
Then into Bocage, with bay'net and gun
But snipers lurk to left and right
We're down to six, but on we fight
Still just D-Day heroes out in Normandy

6. Look around the farmsteads, in the mud and rain
You'll see the scattered crosses, there's some that have no name
Heartbreak and toil and suffering gone
The boys beneath them slumber on
They are the D-day heroes who'll stay in Normandy

My Month - Remembering D-Day – A Family Remembers.

There seemed to be two things on the news that I couldn't get away from this month, the general election (that will soon come to a climax just after this magazine is published) and the commemoration of a very historic occasion indeed, an event that changed the world and that was of course the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 4th 1944

We celebrated the D Day anniversary in several ways in Mayfield, including a special service at church and Special D Day afternoon tea at the Memorial Hall hosted by the new Friday Club.

The church service on Sunday June the 9th, not only commemorated D-Day but the 80th anniversary of the Wellington bomber that crashed in Mayfield exactly one week after D-Day itself on June the 13th 1944 and details can be found elsewhere in the magazine of that service, along with the special D-Day afternoon tea that the Friday club had on June 7th the day after the official ceremonies. At that event participants were asked if they had any particular wartime experiences and several people spoke. I initially had intended to talk about my father's experience of D-Day, but with many other people talking and a desire to have tea preeminent in my mind, I chose not to speak; but I also knew that his story was as much about the trauma it caused him rather than D Day itself.

The surprising thing about this commemoration for me was that until a year before my father died, aged 75, I did not know any details of his role in both the D-Day landings and the subsequent operations immediately afterwards. He simply had glossed over it and it was only the knowledge that he had terminal cancer and a limited time left on this earth that prompted him to finally tell my brother and I exactly what he had done.

My father spent the first part of our lives as children in the armed forces, in fact in the R.A.F. as a RAF police officer. He first guarded key airfields and nuclear bomb installations and later on actually tested their security by undercover activities and actually breaking into their own establishments to test their levels of security – a sort of secret Service, James Bond role in the R.A.F.

We knew nothing about this of course, as he was under the official secrets act but when he retired from the RAF and we grew older he was happy to tell us about such exploits, but not a lot about his early life in the armed forces, when he was actually in the Navy during World War Two and in fact took part in D-Day.

Upon his retirement from work he began to write about his forces career and at that point, aged 65, he started to write about his career in the Navy. Signing up underage at the beginning of the war he ended up on a Navy destroyer called HMS Magpie as part of the Atlantic convoys bringing much needed goods and materials from America to Britain and later to Russia.

He was just 17 when he got his first ship and trained as an ASDIC operator, a secret device for locating submerged submarines by using sound waves in the days when radar and sonar were top class secrets. His job was to listen out via the sonar equipment for German U boats that we're going to attack the convoy and sink both shipping and brave sailors.

It clearly was a stressful job, for it depended on his hearing, along with another equally young colleague, to pick up the faint pings on his headset and link them to faint dots on the radar screen, that showed where a lethal German submarine was waiting to attack. If he got it wrong not only shipping would be sunk but his own vessel would be attacked as well.

To aid him in doing that job he had to have his ears syringed out every week and that process over the years damaged his hearing to a point where in later life he was deaf!

But that did not worry him, it was all a part of the job he had to do and was a positive contribution to the war effort. In fact his ship under the command of a famous Navy Captain John Walker, had the highest number of hits for destroying German U boats in the war.

My brother and I knew nothing of this until we ourselves were teenagers. We asked the reason why we were not told of such heroics before. It was mother who said the reason he kept quiet so long was that at the age of 17, whilst on the North Atlantic patrol he had lost his best friend at sea, This was not through German gunfire but, in a huge Atlantic storm, his friend was swept overboard whilst working on the deck of the destroyer and the rules, he said were that the destroyer would not stop but had to carry on escorting the fleet and that his friend, if not dead when he hit the water, would then drown as they sailed on.

That must have been traumatic for any person, let alone a teenager, and my mother believed it was that incident that made him reluctant to talk about his naval days for so long.

However, that did not explain why until so late in his life he talked about D-Day which you would think he would have been proud to have been part of. In fact in his memoirs of many pages, D Day gets only the following notes, *'ships, ships and more ships, the Isle of Wight sinking under the weight of arms and equipment and the whole of the American continent in Southampton and Portsmouth'*

Of the Day itself, he talked about a *'French beach where every ship of any description from battleship to rowing boat they were all there'*. He talks about *'Jerry, he put up stiff resistance'* and then comments he gained a small scar on his chin from shrapnel that he never found out where it came from or when it hit him.

And that was it for D Day amongst pages and pages of his war experiences.

However, it was whilst watching the veterans at the D-Day memorial and their behaviour that gave me a clue as to why my father was so reluctant to write about that experience on that day.

It was noticeable at all the ceremonies when veterans, now aged 100 or more, gave a speech it was inevitably to remember a fallen colleague who had not made it through the day but had died on the beaches or in the days following. The veteran would dedicate their speech to a friend and then really focus on talking about how those who did not come back were the real heroes.

And that had a distinct resonance with me when I remember conversations I had with my father literally months before lung cancer took him away from us.

We were on a visit to his hometown, Wellington in Shropshire to see where he lived and meet relatives. I was driving him and had a good two or three hours in the car with him just chatting. I gently inquired about his life and asked the question as to why he joined the Navy so young. He told me what he had told me before, that it was an escape from impoverished lifestyle and a real desire to do good and then he openly talked about what it was like in the Navy and the difficulties of the Atlantic convoys, but he had never felt powerless, whereas he definitely did on D-Day.

It was the first time he had talked about D-Day beyond those few notes he wrote and I inquired further as to why he had never really mentioned D Day. He replied it was something he never wanted to talk about but realised we needed to know.

It appears that after the Atlantic convoys his ship was assigned to be part of the escort fleet on the morning of D Day and in particular their job was to find and destroy any submarines that were in the Channel. Consequently, they escorted the troops to the beaches and then set back some distance from the front itself whilst he was busy on the sonar equipment making sure no U boats were going to attack the troop carriers. They were stationary all day and during that period we're not meant to shoot at either German planes or the gun emplacements on the coast, so that they did not attract German gunfire themselves.

It meant for the person who signed up to beat the Germans, it was a frustrating and quite terrifying time, to be sitting just waiting to be attacked. But it appears that was not the worst of it. Inevitably on that first day many troops were shot and killed on the beaches and inevitably with the tides some bodies were carried out to sea and my father almost in tears remembered such bodies floating by their own ship and they were not allowed to bring them on board but had to radio to smaller vessels who came out to pick up the bodies for burial. My father said that the worst part of his Atlantic convoy days was when they successfully blew up a U boat, which was a great success, but then to see the bodies of German sailors come to the surface. As my father said they were the equivalent of him and his

crewmates and in the faces of the few who were still alive or rescued he saw himself, just boys who had signed up to do a job.

At least there they could rescue those who are alive; at D-Day they just had to watch knowing that some of the bodies floating by might be injured but not dead but they could do nothing.

And then he said it got worse, two days later he was assigned to escort a super-secret project that most people at the time did not know about; Operation PLUTO that stood for pipeline under the ocean, which was a project to lay a complete oil pipeline from England to France so petrol and diesel could be pumped through it for the tanks and vehicles in France, rather than risk oil tankers being shot up as they crossed the channel.

Getting the pipeline across was an excruciatingly slow process travelling at only a few knots per hour and again they were easy targets for any German planes or U boats in the area. He said the job was quiet until they got near the French coast and again amongst the gunfire and German attacks, they once again saw now very bloated bodies of allied servicemen that had floated out to sea and still not recovered two days later.

It was another deep shock he found it difficult to recover from and today it would be diagnosed as post-traumatic stress disorder PTSD, and help would be available. Back then you just got on with it and live with the nightmares it inevitably caused.

It is interesting that after being demobbed and a brief spell in civvy street my father wanted to re-enlist in the services. He initially wanted to go back to his old boat HMS Magpie but was unable to do as it was now in Malta with a new captain a certain Duke of Edinburgh who was just engaged to Princess Elizabeth!

So instead of going back in the Navy he signed up for the RAF but interestingly in the RAF police as a dog handler, where he would support the airman but not actually be there at the point of conflict.

So In looking at the serviceman at the D-Day celebrations and what they said I understood exactly why my father do not talk about his experiences for so many years and why I chose not to publicly tell his story at the Friday club tea. It is sometimes easier to put such things in words than to say them in public.

I'm sure many of you reading this will have similar experiences of relatives and family who were in the war and who found it very difficult to talk about their experiences and inevitably wanted to remember those who did not come back,

However, everyone who took part in the war helped make our country what is today, a free country with a strong democracy shown by the general election that is taking place as I write this.

Until next time. Stephen Dunn

Nature Notes: Citizen Science at the River

It's June so I better take the sunscreen, I thought on the morning of the River Fly Monitoring. So I did, when what I really needed was a very large umbrella.

I was helping survey the river's invertebrate life to see how healthy, or otherwise, the River Dove was.

How does counting creatures tell us about water quality? Partly because the more invertebrates there are, the more healthy the river. It also matters exactly what sort of things are living there. Some animals, like stoneflies, are extremely sensitive to even slightly polluted water. Any decline in the invertebrate community rings an alarm bell as to the health of the river.

What is Citizen Science? Just normal people making observations according to a criteria, which can then be used for scientific purposes. We were counting invertebrates currently living in the River Dove. One person dons his waders and walks into the water. With his foot he rubs the bottom for 30 seconds to dislodge the creatures, then captures them in a net. He empties the net into the bucket and then repeats a few feet away, six times in all. Finally we all overturn bigger stones by hand to sample the insects living there.



*One of the volunteers,
sampling the river*



Once we've collected all the samples, we empty the bucket into a tray and identify what we've caught. First any little fish, like bullheads, are counted and returned to the river.

The volunteers then fish each invertebrate out, decide what sort it is and transfer it to its own compartment. We separate stonefly, mayfly, olives, blue-winged olives, flattened olives, freshwater shrimp, cased caddisfly and caseless caddisfly. After counting how many of each we have, we return them all to the water unharmed.



Cased caddisflies look like little sticks with legs poking out the front

We don't count any insects actually flying, just their nymphs which live at the bottom of the river. These are at an earlier stage in their lives and will hatch into flyers later on. Adult mayflies, for example, (opposite), live only a few hours. Long enough just to breed and lay eggs. The nymph stage though can last up to two years.

We make the survey at the same time, and in the same place, every year so that any changes are easily seen and we make sure we correctly identify all the invertebrates we have seen. Many other groups employ the same method throughout the UK.





Finally, back home, one volunteer (Andrew) enters the results into the River Fly Partnership website. Andrew also, each month, analyses the chemical purity (or otherwise) of the river as part of the volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network. He fills a jam jar with river water and measures conductivity and temperature. He then test for nitrate and phosphate levels and looks for any algal blooms and visible pollution. Again he enters the results into a website.

What did we find? Our river is reasonably healthy. No major polluting incidents have occurred. We had a good mix of invertebrates although it would be good to have more of them as that leads to more fish, more birds and more wildlife of all kinds. J.S.

Carols Recipes for July

Jumbo Jacks

Children will love making these during school holidays. They store well in an airtight tin. I've just bought a new biscuit tin and I have to struggle to get the lid off, acts as a deterrent for me.

175g SR flour
75g porridge oats
175g granulated sugar
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp baking powder
175g cubed butter
23 tbsp golden syrup

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 180c/160/gas4
- 2 Measure out the dry ingredients into a bowl
- 3 Put the butter and syrup into a pan and heat gently, stirring the butter has melted and syrup mixed together.
- 4 Pour into the bowl into dry ingredients and stir it until combined you will need to use your hands to mix the dough together.
- 5 Turn the dough on to work surface and shape into 28 balls about 2cms thick. Arrange on to a large greased baking trays, leave some space. Press to flatten a little.
- 6 Bake for 12 to15 mins until golden brown and firm. Remove from the oven with a fish slice, transfer to wire rack to cool.

Rainbow Coleslaw

This coleslaw recipe is easy; feel free to try adding any other crunchy veg like fennel, celery or celeriac. You can stir in fresh herbs or swap the mustard for chili sauce

½ red or white cabbage shredded
½ red onion, finely sliced
1 carrot, grated
3 tbsp mayonnaise
1 lemon juice
1 tsp white wine vinegar
1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
Pinch of sugar to taste
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Method

1 Put the chopped cabbage, carrot and onion into a bib bowl.

2 In a smaller bowl mix together with mayonnaise, lemon juice, and vinegar and wholegrain mustard. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and stir to thoroughly combine. Pour over the vegetables.

3 Toss the slaw with dressing. Serve immediately or cover and leave in the fridge, use for up to two days.

Mayfield Book Club

The Novel we read and discussed was *The Foundling* by Stacey Halls. This story was inspired by the Foundling hospital, which was founded in London during the Georgian Era.

The story revolves around a young woman called Bess, who found she was pregnant after a meeting with a young wealthy man.

She hid her secret only with her family and after the birth took her daughter to the Foundling hospital to be cared for. Her intention was to go back for her in five years time. Needless to say the young man was married soon passed away.

The story continues to follow Bess's story, her cheating brother and how she goes to claim back her child to find it been claimed the day after she gave birth, The story goes on but I do not want to spoil it just in case you choose to read it.

The members enjoyed the story but thought the ending a bit far fetched but some thought enjoyed a happy ending.

The Foundling hospital came about when a childless sea captain called Thomas Coram was so dismayed to see abandoned children in the streets he wanted to do something to help.

Along with Royal Patronage support from Handel and Hogarth it came to fruition.

Today the Coram Adoption Society still flourishes.

I have visited this museum and it is well worth a visit.

Carol Akers

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Lotto for June 2024

...and the winner is No. 27 who

wins £100!

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please join the Lotto and help support the MRA

It costs just £25 to join the Lotto for a year, and you have twelve chances to win around £100.
Please consider joining – without you and others like you, the MRA would struggle to keep going.

- When you join you are allotted a number for the year (or two numbers if you pay £50).
- The Lotto draw is held every month.
- If, for example, 100 people join the Lotto, each paying £25 for a year, then each month the winning number will amount to half the total subs for that month, i.e. half of $100 \times £25$ divided by 12 = £104. In other words, the winner gets half and the real winner, the MRA, gets the other half – a very good local cause.

To pay online or to set up a standing order, please use: sort code: 30 90 25, account no: 00198474, account name: Mayfield Recreational Association. Please let the MRA know that you have joined and your address – email treasurer@mramayfield.org.uk.

To send a cheque make it payable to Mayfield Recreational Association and send to: Andrew Reay-Robinson, The Cliff, Leek Road, Upper Mayfield, DE6 2HR.

Thank you!



About the MRA

The Mayfield Recreational Association is a registered charity, number 700004. It provides sporting and social amenities to the people and clubs of Mayfield.

**For more information see our website
mramayfield.org.uk**



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REFLECTIONS.

In my last article I wrote about the joys of seeing the sights of the land sea and air, both by the naked eye and also by the joys that Sir David Attenborough and others in various nature programmes can show us of our world, and sometimes of world's beyond ours.

I for one love to see these programmes and appreciate what splendours we can see today, yes, by the naked eye, and via television with instant live communication from the four corners of the globe, we see things that to our forefathers would be classed as science fiction! Sometime though, I wonder, do we really appreciate what we can see, whether through television, or the naked eye.

I was reminded while writing this of a day out quite some time ago. Ann, Adam and I went to the West Midlands Safari Park, and as we were going round the park in our car, we were astounded at what we saw so close to us. Giraffe's, Antelope of many species, Zebra, Apes, Tigers and Lions. Of the latter, we were at one point near a Pride of Lions, they were resting on a structure made for them. As we got near the whole Pride got up and walked in front of our car to a rock structure to our left.

While we were in awe of what we saw within touching distance, I was appalled looking round at the other cars near us as the majority of the people except the drivers were glued to what was on their mobile phones and / or tablets.

A few years ago we went out for a meal on Mother's day, as we were waiting to served a family came in and sat down. Immediately everyone, except, "Granny", took out their phones and were engrossed in them. "Granny" looked rather sad at this turn of events I thought!

I mentioned to Ann, I would love to have my mother with me that day as, I sure Ann would love hers to be too. But they had long passed away from our lives. Some didn't appreciate at the Safari Park or at that restaurant, what they had around them, I hope you all appreciate what is "around" you this and every day.

God Bless you all.

Tom Parkinson.

Date for Articles for the JOINT AUG/SEPT 2024 Issue of the Magazine.

We always welcome articles for the magazine, both from Mayfield itself and the surrounding villages. To ensure your article is published in our next Joint issue,

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

It must be submitted by **Monday 22nd July** at the latest.

Articles and information submitted beyond that date may not be published.

You can submit articles by email to our editor. Stephen Dunn Email:

s.w.dunn@btconnect.com Tel. 342188 or contact me to deliver them by hand.

MAYFIELD CHURCH (St. John the Baptist)

Web Site www.mayfieldparishchurch.org

Vicar of Weaver Benefice	Rev. Brian Leathers	(Tel: 01538 702469)
Assistant Minister for Mayfield	Rev. Chamil Fernando	(07511 117822)
Churchwardens:	Mr Charles Wimbush	(Tel: 324083)
	Mrs Maggie Cook	(Tel: 345691)
Deputy Church warden	Mr Philip Cook	
PCC Secretary	Amy Hawksworth	
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Catherine Mellor	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Catherine Mellor	
Organist	Mrs Janet Knox	(Tel: 346487)
Verger:	Mr Doug Greenway	(Tel: 344932)
Magazine Editor	Mr Stephen Dunn	(Tel: 342188)
Rota for Readers/Intercessions	Martin Balderson	(07515 385662)
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Bell Captain	(Vacant)	

MESSY CHURCH

Details of Messy Church are available from Hilary Dowson (01335 324350)
and Mrs Catherine Mellor (07752 772715)

ECUMENICAL CONTACTS

Ashbourne Methodist Minister: Rev. Nicola Briggs
16, Booth Drive Ashbourne (Tel: 01335 702174.)

SUNDAY SERVICES

All Morning Services at 10.45am.
1st Sunday: Church Family Communion
2nd Sunday: Church Family Worship
3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer
4th Sunday: Morning Prayer
(5th Sunday: See magazine for details)

For Baptisms and Marriages please contact Rev. Brian Leathers (Tel: 01538 702469)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ashbourne Medical Practises.
Clifton Road 216885. The Surgery, Clifton Rd 300588
St Oswald's Hospital 230000. Ashbourne Community Transport 300670
Police emergency 999 . Police non emergency 101
Gas emergency service 0800 111 999 . Electricity emergency service 0800 056 8090
Ryecroft Middle School 01889 590394. Thomas Alleyne High School 01889 561820

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