

#### Satisfaction

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

As we venture further into Winter and lose sight of the glories of Christmas it is easy to find ourselves joining with the sentiment of Mick Jagger who memorably sang "I can't get no satisfaction!"

The cost of living is biting many of us, and financial difficulty brings a huge weight of discontent. I trained as a scientist and was taught to believe that mankind is making progress as we build towards the future. Certainly, our technology has brought us much easier lives than many of our forebears. But I question whether we are ethically, morally, or spiritually any more advanced than the pagans who lived here before Christianity arrived at these Isles.

There are many people clamouring for the latest fashionable idea, some jump on the bandwagon of other people's protests, but I believe we need a tried and trusted way forward. It took years to realise that smoking actually damaged the health of the smoker. It took decades to do away with slavery. These ethical and moral ideas had a huge economic impact on society. It is often easier to keep things as they "have always been" (in our memory anyway).

How is your faith supporting you at this time? Do you feel any comfort from your prayers, of worshipping God in Church?

It is the practice of our local Churches to prepare ourselves for Easter during the time of Lent which starts just after the pancake parties (this year on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb).

I would like to invite you to take part to ask questions of your faith, to reconnect with God, to learn about how we seek to change Church for the better.

I have found a course called "Thrive" which is designed for Churches which share clergy, and in some way work together. To help us to keep the individual churches distinct from one another, while cooperating where this is best.

I have booked the meetings for 2pm on Wednesdays starting on 21<sup>st</sup> February and ending on 27<sup>th</sup> March. We will meet at Alton Church in the warm north aisle. But I will need people from other churches as we will be discussing things which can benefit and change all five of our local Churches. These will not be business meetings, but a session of six discussions with input from the course as we take the temperature of the local churches.

However, this won't suit everyone – and two Churches will be holding Lent lunches. Alton will hold theirs on Thursdays after a later Communion service than normal but still in the Church, so the meal will take place at 12:15pm on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, and March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. While Mayfield will be holding theirs at Noon on March 13<sup>th</sup> in their Church rooms.

Going back to Mick Jagger's lack of satisfaction, I believe the Bible teaches us that as we seek to know God, to be saved by His love from being slaves to an addictive lifestyle, then we can properly find true satisfaction.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrew 13:5)

Brian Leathers (Jan 2024)

### A warm welcome to Sundays in February

### **Sunday 4th February** (2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent)

10.45 Church Family Communion. Revd. Brian Leathers
With support from Magaret Mansfield, Stephen Dunn and Phil Cook

### **Sunday 11th February** (Sunday before Lent)

10.45 Morning Prayer. Service led by Stephen Dunn
With support from Margaret Balderson, Catherine Mellor and Martin Balderson

### **Sunday 18th February** (1st Sunday of Lent)

10.45 Morning Prayer Revd. Brian Leathers

With support from Arnie Rainbow, Penny Chettle and Caroline Munroe

### **Sunday 25th February** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)

10.45 Morning Prayer. Service led by Catherine Mellor With support from Phil Cook, Carol Akers and Paul Flint

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# Someone will be Knocking on your Door! Welcome to the New Year and the First Magazine of 2024

We reckon if you are reading this article then the likelihood is that you have already met with your magazine distributor who's knocked on your door and asked you for £8 for the forthcoming year's supply of Mayfield Village and Parish News. Hopefully you have already paid but if you're reading this and have yet to pay, do put that £8 into an envelope write your name and 'magazine subscription' on the outside and then post it through the letterbox of your distributor when you are out for your daily walk/ exercise. If that is not possible you can also drop the money off with any of the people listed on the back cover who help run and maintain the church in Mayfield.

As editors and magazine distributors Joyce and Stephen are always impressed that so many people have the money ready and waiting at the door when we knock and are kind enough to say how much they like the magazine and what a good read it is. That view also comes back to us from our band of loyal distributors who are told the same thing by their people. So, it's a big thank you for supporting your village magazine and a big thank you to the people who regularly distribute it and collect the subscriptions.

The Editors

### Articles for the March 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 issue,

#### March 2024

It must be submitted by **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at the latest.

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

You can submit articles by email to our editors. Stephen Dunn Email: s.w.dunn@btconnect.com Tel. 342188 or Joyce Beeson Tel. 346959 and contact us to deliver them by hand.

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# Christmas in Mayfield.

Articles about the many Christmas events & activities that took place in our village are highlighted in a special *Christmas typeface*. And they covers everything from our Christingle service at church through to the Senior Social Club. Look out for them throughout the Magazine.

# Christmas in Mayfield - Senior Social Club Christmas Lunch



Mayfield's first Christmas event was the Mayfield Church Christmas Fayre reported on in last month's magazine but in December itself the villages first event took place on Friday December the 8th when Mayfield Senior Social Club held their traditional Christmas lunch at Mayfield Memorial Hall.

It was the perfect opportunity to have the first Christmas meal of the season and of course that Christmas meal had to be roast Turkey with all the trimmings including stuffing and seasonal vegetables. And if that was not enough to fill you up there was of course Christmas pudding to follow.

And as it was Christmas there were crackers for everybody with paper hats as well as seasonal jokes such as 'Why don't you ever see Father Christmas in hospital? Because he has private elf care' and 'What falls at the North Pole but never gets hurt? Snow!' It all made for a great start for Christmas in Mayfield.

Christmas in Mayfield - A Very Merry Christingle



On December 10<sup>th</sup> St John the Baptist Church, under the guiding hand of Rev David Leese, resurrected our much-missed Christingle Service. Christingle is a joyful service that brings together families and our village community to share in the story of Jesus and bring a message of hope to all. When we had our lovely Henry Prince School, still so sadly missed, the last afternoon of the Autumn Term saw the children walking to church, where their parents and families would join them, to hold a Christingle Service before going home, with the story of Jesus' birth in their hearts, clutching an orange adorned by a red ribbon and a candle and decorated with fruits of the vine and sweets, to get ready for the next big occasion - the arrival of Father Christmas.



As ever, our Christingle on December 10<sup>th</sup> was a very happy occasion, enhanced by some Christmas magic from Rev David as well as the singing of favourite carols and hearing the familiar words of that first Christmas when Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem. An added bonus, well *two* really, was that there were enough oranges



for the adults to also make a symbolic Christingle orange, so the service lived up to its title of being an Allage Christingle - plus all the children (and some of the grandparents) left the church not only with an orange decorated with sweets and a candle but a

John Lewis Christmas 'Snapper' toy, kindly donated by Waitrose Uttoxeter.

This was our first Christingle for a few years but we do not intend it to be the last. Here's an early warning watch this magazine for the date of this year's service, (nearer to Christmas, of course).

Maggie Cook



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# Christmas in Mayfield - Our Church Windows

Each year our church windows are dressed beautifully for Christmas and this Christmas just gone was no exception. Windows both large and small were decorated with a variety of themes although the nativity was a popular one and appeared several times. Window displays were created by church members, villagers, local companies and even messy church to create wonderful displays that lasted throughout Christmas and gave joy to all those who visited the church. Space does not permit us to show but just a small sample of what was on display. Our sincere thanks to all those who did so much to transform the church.



Messy Churches delightful nativity shares space with a beautifuil traditional nativity with wreaths and flower displays to help create that real Christmas feel across the church.





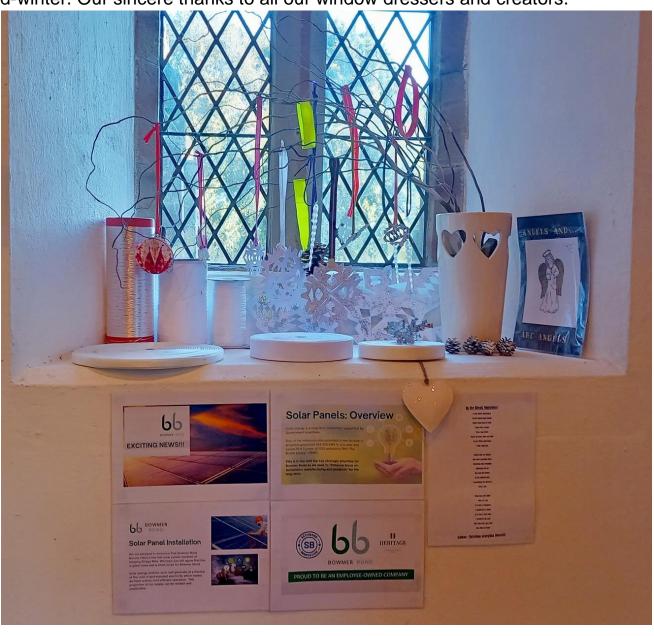
A whole variety of flowers plants and foliage were employed to create some stunning displays both small and large throughout the church. Christmas colours of red and green were subtlety built into the wonderful displays, along with traditional tinsel and Christmas decorations to brtighten up a window ledge.







A beautiful floral display took pride of place behind the communion table in the chancel, complete with its single candle, whilst local company Bowmer Bond cleverly incorporated their products into a display reflecting the carol In the Bleak Mid-winter. Our sincere thanks to all our window dressers and creators.



# Christmas in Mayfield - Carol Singing Returns to Mayfield.



It hasn't happened for several years and certainly not since COVID but this Christmas once again a group of carol singers toured the village wishing people

happy Christmas in songs and carols and raising money for good causes in this case the Scouts. The carolling took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and was the brainchild of Natalie Wakefield and friends, who remembered how good it was singing carols at this time of year.

A group of volunteer carol singers met at the Memorial Hall to get ready complete with Carol sheets and lanterns and were joined by none other than the Gingerbread Man who added his significant presence and goodwill to the event.

In all £66 in donations was raised for the 1<sup>st</sup> Mayfield Scouts and a happy time was had by all, both singers and the many villagers who came out to listen and donate. SD.





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### The 2024 Winter

This winter has been one of the worst we have had for a long time, with the wind blowing so hard that it blew part of my fence down and a small planter that I've had for a long time was smashed up by the strong wind and most of it was blown onto the front lawn in small pieces, a very sad sight indeed.

I have managed to mend my fence - my grandson and his friend are coming to take all the fence down and I shall now grow small plants and bulbs where the fence was - no more having to cut it down.

Surprisingly the snowdrops and primroses and crocuses are flowering really well. We've been lucky and not had any floods like so many unfortunate people have had - we are lucky living where we do, quite high up in the landscape.

We have also had some snow this winter, but not a lot - it soon melted; however it is still very cold. The weather now in January is slowly improving hopefully spring is not too far away.

I have lots of birds who come each day for food - I love feeding them each morning and topping up the feeders during the day. Once full, my feeders are visited by blackbirds, robins, sparrows, blue tips, wrens and magpies.

However, I think we now have mice at night, as there are some small little holes in the ground directly under the bird feeders where they eat the food dropped by the birds in the day - Oh well we do live in the country.

In most recent years we have had birds from abroad, but not this year. I do hope you are feeding your birds and I hope that spring comes soon after our cold wet and windy winter weather.

A very happy new year to everyone

Joyce Beeson



The first sign that spring is on its way - snowdrops appearing in gardens and on the verges in the village.

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# Christmas in Mayfield - Raising Money for the MRA



So, what do Father Christmas, the Snowman a Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Christmas Elf and The Grinch having common? Not a lot you'd think, but in Mayfield this cast of characters both nice and dubious have been raising large sums of money for the MRA over the Christmas.

Recently the children's playground has been installed at the MRA but the footpath going into the grounds has become very muddy and soggy with all the extra traffic going to the new playground/

What is needed is a proper footpath created, but that costs money and that's where the cast of characters above came in. First they persuaded the Memorial Hall to donate all the proceeds from the Christmas hamper at the Mayfield Arms bar to the MRA footpath fund and then to top it up they went round the village at Christmas asking for donations in return for a selfie or two. or maybe just scaring the children!

Whatever they did it worked and the magnificent sum £455 was raised - more than enough to create that footpath and work will start on that when the weather improves.

This could be a first where the Grinch has actually helped at Christmas! It must be the influence of Father Christmas or maybe that Tyrannosaurus Rex kept him in line. Who Knows!

At the start of the year Churchwarden Charles Wimbush reflects back on the year just gone and what it meant for our church in Mayfield

### The wrong end of the telescope of time – D H Lawrence

2023, the year in review can come as a bit of a shock; what appeared on reflection as humdrum was, at the time, not so nice at all:

Our Vicar was going, and that is not a nice thing to contemplate anyway and although we promptly wrote the profile, the Diocese clearly wanted to 'wait a bit', this being their recruiting tactic. So we, obedient as we are, waited 6 months before even setting the type for the Church Times and the vacancy then became a prolonged gap in the scheme of things.

Meanwhile we were all packed off for safeguarding training and I was given a 'booster' shot of SG training as we had no Vicar to bear the brunt; the Diocese appeared to have abrogated its responsibilities regarding poor old Henry Prince School, leaving Alf and I to keep an eye on things, 'til, I don't know when – we still wait. Add to this list of moans the looming fuel bills and you can see we had a bit of a wake-up call!

If ever we needed a boost it was to find happiness in, of all things, Statistics for Mission. The excellent Richard Barrett gave me a Gospel sized opportunity to boast of our wonderful church community: that lots of people come to Church; we hold a great variety of events; the Lay team is much admired; Messy Church has been vigorous; Brian Leathers, bless his cottons, takes two upbeat services every month (and still persists in toting the merits of the Life Events Diary which I still cannot make work for me); our fabric will last another thousand years; people are kind and considerate, what else could we possibly need?

All things that should happen, did happen and I think the parades, fayres and memorials went very well. 88 at the Remembrance Parade. If you can have a theme, this was about the flyers: the most dangerous job in any war, the VC holder, pilot of a flying boat, still going strong at 104! And all the memories of all those that died to make you, me and our families safe.

The events surrounding Christmas were great fun: the beautifully decorated windows, the Tree, Nativity and Cross; the Service of Nine Readings and Carols, the Choir and the Fayre and a Christingle Service all gave us great pleasure and re-assurance that Christmas really is here.

We fondly remember the St George's Day Parade with the Scouts and the Memorial service enjoyed by the many that came to remember the recent death of a loved family member.

There was a lot of housekeeping to do and we are presently working on the Vicarage garden to smarten it up and perhaps entice another recruit for the post – work never stops! Meanwhile, there is the important task of keeping the community in step with our mission and demonstrating that we are not just God botherers but people who care for our neighbours, welcome all newcomers and are sensitive to the mores and conventions of our time.

There was also the dross and the annoying as we contemplated whether we needed to spend £14,000 on an outside lavatory for the Church, we decided not to 'phew!', and then there were the decisions, or stay of decisions, about far more important matters: Quinquennial work (where we paid to have the most important urgent work done); repair of a collapsed wall; the looming fuel bills; the Common Fund about which I am wary.

On a happier note: the Coronation was a splendid affair followed by two birthday parties and, later that afternoon, a Village Tea Party and those Bears!

In the round: eventually, it was a very good year.

Charles Wimbush

### **Mayfield Wendy Club Closure**

Regretfully after many years, I have made the difficult decision to close the parents at tot's group, "Mayfield Wendy Club", this has not been an easy decision but unfortunately there is not enough demand within our village for a tot's group at the moment. Not only do I feel the loss of our village school and Covid has had an impact on the group, unfortunately a change in my personal circumstances has also led me to make the final decision.

The Wendy Club toy box now has a new permanent home in our beautiful church where it can be seen and hold the memory of the late Wendy Greatrex.

Any toys and resources are stored safely for the time being, if anyone decided they would like to open a new group these can be donated to give a good start in setting up, otherwise I will be donating them to other charities or family's that are in need, if anyone knows of any such cause please do get in touch with me. Any money within the group will be kept within the village and donated, more details on that will follow as soon as things are final.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported the group over the years it has been a pleasure running the group and watching little tots grow and move on to pastures new, I have many fond memories of my own children enjoying the group.

Charlotte Heathcote.

### White Peak Nordic Walking.

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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

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### Mobile Library Service Dates for Feb, March & April 2024

The mobile library comes to Mayfield on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. and 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April 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
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Mayfield Heritage Group
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It's called Mayfield's New Year's Eve family party for a reason; it's the place where families of all ages could come together and see in the new year with a great disco and lots of dancing.

With well over 100 people in attendance that the Memorial Hall the dance floor was soon full, first with all those young people and then their families, friends and all those adults who wanted to see in the new year with a dance; all waiting for those special new year's eve balloons to drop at midnight and people came together to sing Auld Lang Syne.

What a way to welcome in the new year.



### **Mayfield Memorial Hall News** The Dedication of The Maureen Burton Room

Regular readers of this magazine will know that early last year Mayfield Memorial Hall lost a very valued trustee, Maureen Burton, who had been a trustee of the hall for over a third of the entire Halls life and was quite possibly the longest serving trustee the hall has ever had.

The decision was made to completely refurbish and redecorate the committee room at the hall and rename it in Maureen's honour and after considerable work over the summer and autumn that dedication took place on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. The room has new flooring, wall panelling and a new colour scheme with pride of place given to a plaque and photographs of Maureen.

A special luncheon was provided for Maureen's husband Alf and her family





The history of Mayfield on Display...... Linda Greenwood and Paul Miles

from Mayfield Heritage Group came to the hall on Sunday the 28th of January to set up a fascinating display about the history of Mayfield including the Methodist Chapel and sale of land at Upper

Mayfield.



Original documents and artefacts were on display, including the original hymn board from the Chapel and was available for everyone to see when they came to the Mayfield Arms that Sunday afternoon.

# Mayfield Memorial Hall Forthcoming events

Mayfield Arms Sunday Openings. 2pm -7pm 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February & 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY February 2024** 

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>TH</sup> -Line Dancing 7pm-9pm.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> - Indoor Bowls 10.30am-12.30am

<u>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March</u> - Mayfield Senior Social Club 2pm - 4pm Everyone is welcome <u>including</u> non members.

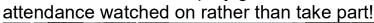
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February Country Music Club with Live Music Doors open 7pm, Artist on 8.30pm.

# 1<sup>St</sup> Mayfield Scouts A Sleep Over, A Christmas Party and Presentations



At the end of a busy and productive year for 1st Mayfield Scouts, we held a special Sleepover in Mayfield Memorial Hall on Friday Dec 15th.

It was not just a sleepover, but also a Christmas party and awards ceremony all built in. First the Christmas party with homemade food and cakes went down well and that was followed up by games in the Hall although it's fair to say the adults in







Then the main event of the evening was the handing out of Awards and we Sue Harris, Derbyshire County Commissioner for Scouts who helped presented Chief Scout Gold Awards to Lorelai Lewis and Esmeé Haines and a Chief Scout Bronze Award to Myles Crossley.

All three have had to work very hard to achieve their Awards, they've shown commitment and have had some fantastic experience along the way. I was also lucky enough to have been nominated for an Award, the Order of Merit. It is given in recognition of outstanding service and I could not be prouder. I could have gone

to a swanky ceremony, but chose to have it presented surrounded by the amazing young people who make it worthwhile.

As well as having a guest from the Scouting world, we also had an important guest from Mayfield,



Pat Smith, who presented a new Scout of the Year Award in his name to Lorelai and Esmeé and told the Young People about the history of Scouting in Mayfield and how important it was and still is to our village.

And then it was time to settle down for the night, watch a Xmas film before bedding down inside the tents set up in the hall.

The enthusiasm and commitment from all our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers is a testament how successful the Scout Group is and how important it is in our community.

On behalf of Scouts, we would like to give thanks to all the families and friends of scouts who help keep a troop both alive and growing in our community. We have a packed programme of activity in 2024 and we'll update you all later on in the year on our activities.

Katy Lewis

# Christmas comes to our Postbox.



Once again our village post-box outside Mayfield Stores has been crowned with a very seasonal knitted Topper. It's only been a year or so since they have been appearing and yet already, they already seem to be a very happy tradition within Mayfield and this Christmas saw a beautifully knitted Santa about to go down the chimney reminding everyone, when they posted their Christmas cards, of the season to come. It was a lovely start to Christmas and many thanks to our selfless knitter Adrian Lewis. Keep up the good work, Mayfield really appreciates it.

### **Ship Ahoy at Messy Church!**

Messy Church met for its first session of 2024 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. In the session we looked at 4 'ships' that play an important part in Christian faith – stewardSHIP, discipleSHIP, fellowSHIP and worSHIP!



For stewardship, we thought about the world and how we are the stewards who need to tend and look after it for future generations. We made orangutan jungle spinners to remind us of their plight as their habitat is destroyed.

For discipleship, we thought about how we follow Jesus. We made some pipe cleaner Christian fish to take home to remind us how we are all disciples of Jesus.

For fellowship, we thought about countries in the world where it is not safe to be a Christian and how even the slightest thing, like the pipe cleaner fish, could get us

into all sorts of trouble.

For worship, we thought about the way we worship God and Jesus. We crafted stained glass windows using tissue paper.

We looked at the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector and how, after climbing a tree to see and then meeting Jesus he became a reformed man. We considered how Zacchaeus showed each one of these 'ships' throughout the story as be became a better man and follower of Jesus.

As always, we finished off the session with a scrummy meal - one last example of fellowship - before everyone went home.

We will be next be meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 3.30-5.30pm in the Church Rooms. Keep your eyes peeled for more details nearer the time. Catherine,

#### Wordsearch

L	Ε	W	W	J	S		Р	L	S	Н	W	U	R	R	Н	K	Р	٧	D
K	Ε	S	Н	R	Ο	V	Ε	Τ	U	Ε	S	D	Α	Υ	Υ	Α	V	V	R
L	Ε	M	Ο	Ο	W	F	Ε	Η	K	Р	S	F	Т	Η	V	Α	Α	L	Α
U	K	F	Ο	M	S	С	Α	M	R	Н	Α	L	Ε	Ε	G	Н	L	Η	G
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Α	S	Н	W	W	Ε	Р	L	Ε	S	Υ	R	R	W	В	Ν	0	U	-	R
В	J	R	V	Α	L	L	R	S	F	Н	Ν	Ε	Υ	Η	Ε	Ν	Α	G	Ο
M	F	Ε	В	R	U	Α	R	Υ	R	Α	U	R	В	R	S	Ν	G	Н	S
S	Н	K	Т	S	V	J	Ε	Н	J	S	Ν	C	S	Η	D	С	Α	Α	Е
С	Α	M	G	R	M	Т	R	M	J	С	Α	F	J	U	Α	Р	J	F	S
Р	Α	Ν	С	Α	M	Α	Р	L	Ε	S	Υ	R	U	Р	Υ	R	U	Р	S
Р	Α	G	S	J	Т	M	Р	Α	Α	D	V	Υ	Ε	Α	G	G	R	Н	K
W	S	Η	D	L	Р	Ε	W	V	V	Α	Η	R	Η	J	U	I		D	J
С	Р	Α	Ν	С	Α	K	Ε	D	G	Η	Ν	S	J	R	J	Т	K	Р	V
Н	K	D	R	Α	Α	G	G	0	Ο	Ν	D	Н	Н	Ε	Α	R	Т	S	D

ASH WEDNESDAY DRAGON FEBRUARY HEARTS
LEMON JUICE LENT MAPLE SYRUP PANCAKE
ROMANCE ROSES SHROVE TUESDAY VALENTINE

### **Monthly Sillies**

Did you hear what happened when the pancake got angry? It just flipped! Why do Jedi always burn their pancakes?

Because they wont turn over to the dark side!

Why didn't the pancake get through on X-Factor? His singing was too flat!

I asked the waiter if my pancake would be long... They said, 'No, it'll be round!"

What do pancakes say instead of goodbye? See you on the flipside!

What do bus drivers put on their morning pancakes? Traffic jam!

Why did the pancake miss the bus? It was a choco-late pancake!

What's the best thing you can put into a pancake? Your teeth!

What do cats like putting on their pancakes? Mice cream!

# Colour Me In!



### Love Is in The Air

I have to admit to feeling quite excited!

How many will I receive this year? Can I beat my record?

I have already told Kim and Mal that they will have to clear the ornaments, photos, flowers, etc. from the top of the sideboard to make room!

What am I talking about, I hear you say?





Valentine's Day cards of course!! Just look how many I got last year!!! 26!!!!!!

Have I really got that many admirers? I suppose I'm not that surprised!!

Handsome, intelligent, thoughtful, kind, romantic, a good listener, loving – everything any little pooch would look for in a partner.



No way will I be sending that many cards, however, there are certainly a couple of female little doggies who may get a surprise from Morse the Dog – not that they'll know

their card is from me of course. That's the whole point! It's anonymous!!

It is considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's card and traditionally the X symbol became identified with a kiss because most dogs find it difficult to write their names so they used their paw to sign with a X and then kissed it!







I'll be visiting the card shops soon – I like to be organised – and choosing just the right cards for my valentines!

I will probably hand deliver as postage is so expensive and, since watching "Mr. Bates vs The Post Office" – both the drama and the documentary - and hearing all the news about this huge miscarriage of justice, the Post Office has gone down in my estimation. I will have to be careful though that I'm not seen and will probably deliver when it's dark. The luminous collar and torch that Mal bought me will come in very useful again. At least, I'll be able to see where I'm going but no-one will recognise me.

In the past, all my cards have been anonymous and I actually have no idea who my admirers are but all I can say is that they have excellent taste!!

Chewy treats can be red Dog toys can be blue Carrots are sweet And so are you!



Happy Valentine's Day!!

# A Busy Year

Morse

In our period of interregnum at Mayfield church, members of the congregation often lead services and give a talk in church. On New Year's Eve, Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the service was led by Catherine Meller who gave a talk on the year just gone by for the church. It was a popular and well received talk, so much so, that we've had requests to print it in the magazine. Over to Catherine,

Right, well here we are – New Years Eve 2023. I don't know about you, but to me it feels like I blinked and missed this year. One minute I am sitting with Gav, Baileys in hand. watching Big Ben striking 12 and all the fireworks on the TV welcoming in the new year 2023 and the next, here I am at the start of the very last day of that very year.

It doesn't seem like a week ago when we were celebrating Christmas Eve in this church. For those of you who weren't here for the Christmas Eve Communion, it was an enjoyable service. It might have seemed to some, however, that my family were having some sort of religious awakening.!

As you might know, the baby Jesus is not traditionally added to the nativity scenes until Christmas Day. However with churchwarden Charles not being here to

supervise proceedings, we were unsure where Jesus was for the main nativity scene. I spent most of the time before the service searching for him.

Knowing Charles is a practical, but tall, man I searched in almost every logical place I could think of, some of them quite high up! I even asked people attending the service 'do you know where I can find Jesus?' and received a variety of odd looks as replies.

It was not until after the service was over that Dad triumphantly announced 'don't worry, I've found Jesus!' to some very bemused looks from the remaining congregation!!

The baby Jesus was removed from his hiding place and put in his rightful place in the manger and all was well. I am sure a very deep talk/sermon could be made about the event, but that is for someone higher up the ecclesiastical ladder than me! For me it is just an anecdote.

On New Years Eve, I always find myself looking back over the last 12 months and thinking of all the things that have happened.

Looking back, we as a congregation had a very busy year in our church here in Mayfield. Between us all we have been involved in some, if not all of the following;

- Martins leaving service and party
- Outdoor Candlemas Service
- Lent Lunch
- Mothering Sunday Service
- Easter Services (with decorated windows)
- Charles III Coronation celebration service (with decorated windows again) followed by picnic in the churchyard and teddies thrown from the tower
- Poem and Pint evening in the Vicarage garden
- Harvest Service (more decorated windows)
- Harvest Supper
- Gift Day collection and service
- Memorial Service for those that have died
- Remembrance Sunday Service
- Christmas Fair (again more decorated windows)
- Christingle Service
- Service of 9 Lessons and Carols
- 10 Messy Church Sessions
- 16 Food & Faith and Faith & Food Sessions
- 6 PCC Meetings (including the Annual Meeting)
- 47 weeks of Tea and Coffee after the service (which works out at approximately 660 hot drinks – don't worry I haven't calculated the biscuits. I didn't think knowing that would be good for any of us!)

I don't know about you but I'm feeling tired just reading it! This list doesn't include any other meetings we might have – Church Warden, Deanery Synod, Standing Committee or planning for Messy Church. Nor does it include the cleaning, the 'regular' floral decorations and all the other behind the scenes work which is done.

Most importantly this list does not include the week in week out attendance and support for the regular services. Roles like being a sidesperson, playing the organ, doing readings, leading the intercessions and, since February leading the service and giving talks, which many of the people here have been actively involved in that have kept the Church going.

Looking at the list again, I am amazed at how much we have done this year – especially as, since Martin left, we have been mostly paddling our own canoe (with help from Brian and others when they are able).

We all lead such busy lives and have so many demands on our time be they family and friends, work or other organisations we are a part of. I think that we should all be very proud of what we have accomplished as a 'team' this year.

The other night, I filled in my new diary with events in 2024. Already I have quite a few 'church events' pencilled in whether I can attend or not- PCC meetings, Messy Church Sessions (and their planning meetings), Faith & Food Sessions (no doubt the other group has also got sessions pencilled in), Pancake Party, Lent Lunch, Mothering Sunday, Easter going forward to Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas 2024! It looks as if well be busy again.

Tomorrow is the first day on January. I generally find that January, once Epiphany is out of the way, is a quiet month with nothing 'out of the ordinary' going on. Once you hit February you have Shrove Tuesday which then leads to lent then Mothering Sunday then Easter – well you know how the year goes it's a treadmill to Christmas.

But January is a month when very little happens which is good. It means that not only can we reflect and recover from the previous year but we can also rest and prepare for the year ahead. With all that we have done, and will do, I think we are very much deserving of the rest.

In 2024, our search for a vicar continues, hopefully to a successful conclusion. However, while it continues, I look forward to us all pulling together to have a busy and prosperous year, as we did last year. And on that point, I note that our next him we're about to sing number 595 is entitled 'One more step along the road I go'. One of many steps we take together as a community in Mayfield. Thank you.

Catherine Mellor

# Christmas in Mayfield - Our Christmas Quiz.

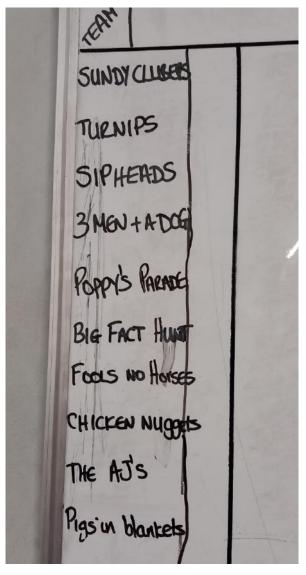


It's become the perfect way to spend an afternoon between Christmas and New

Year, meet friends have a drink and try out your general knowledge all that the Mayfield Christmas quiz plus of course a cash prize on offer for the winning team. This year's quest took place at the Memorial Hall on Friday29<sup>th</sup> December and it was eyes down and full concentration as 10 teams, with names like the 'Sunday Clubbers', 'Pigs in Blankets' and '3 Men & a Dog' all got down to finding the answers to some fiendishly tricky questions.

Minds were set to work, fortified by a festive drink and a snack from the bar, trying to remember song lyrics or a famous face or whether a shrimp has its heart in its head or its tail?\* The questions were so wideranging it was worth having both a granny and a grandchild on your team.

Quizmaster Graham created a fun quiz for all the family with rounds of questions on all subjects and topics. The lure of a cash prize was meant to keep everyone focused, but the attraction of a post-Christmas social with friends and neighbours as well as a



relaxing drink or two, supplemented by those sour cream and onion Pringles seemed to be as popular as the idea of actually winning the quiz.

However, the quiz was duly won and a massive £40 prize was handed over, no doubt to be spent on more refreshments and snacks, but that wasn't the end of festivities.

Following on from the quiz and completely free of charge was live music provided by the Mayfield Memorial Hall committee. The artist on stage was Paul Gibson, a popular and regular visitor to the Memorial Hall who entertained us with songs from the 70's and 80s right up to the 2020's.



Right from the start Paul had one enthusiastic fan, Rory who joined in with his own guitar (plastic) for all those solos, first on the dance floor and then on stage next to Paul, much to the enjoyment of the audience,— And in time Rory was joined by dancers of all ages having a Christmas Bop along with Paul and his youngest fan.

All in all, it was great way to enjoy a Christmas afternoon and evening with Mayfield friend and neighbours.

S.D

\*PS and in case you are wondering the Shrimps heart is in its Head – who knew!

## **MAYFIELD CRAFT CLUB**



## My Month – "The Most Romantic Day of the Year" and Delicious Pancakes

Welcome to February a rather short and rather dull month except for two big events, the so called "most romantic day of the year", Valentine's Day and Pancakes – (more on those delicious things later on.)

Now I have to admit a certain prejudice here, I'm not too keen on the first of those events – now, don't get me wrong I love the idea of Valentine's Day and romance and love and all that goes with it, but the pressure and commercialisation of Valentine's Day is all a bit off-putting especially when you are young, single and interested in getting your first girlfriend or boyfriend. I blame it on Valentine's cards and the widely held belief that they are a perfect way of showing your secret, or not so secret love for someone. Believe me whatever you do in this area, you are going to get it wrong long before you get it right.

First off - should you sign or not sign the card? As a young man with limited pocket money/Saturday job earnings, it seemed a waste not to sign it – BUT signing it could lead to humiliation, if the object of your affections rejected you or worst still, told her friends. Not signing could lead to confusion and many a young girl or boy (me included) has jumped to the wrong conclusion with consequent embarrassment. Worse still was the problem of receiving cards. The ultimate humiliation was to receive none, closely followed by the anonymous card you suspected your mum had sent you to stop you feeling sorry for yourself; "what me send you a card ... I've got better things to spend my money on than wasting it on sending my own son a card... do you know how much housekeeping your father gives me, not enough to go wasting on rubbish like that." A long denial was a sure sign she had taken pity on you, a short "I wouldn't send anything that tacky/smutty" was more the truth.

The next issue was what you did if you did get cards, other than the one your Mum had sent. After the first ecstatic joy of "someone fancies me," came the harsh reality of working out just who had sent it if there was no name and even worse, do I like her if they did sign it. In my short career as a single man, I had both sorts of cards, and both caused me a degree of heartache and pain. My mother's advice, the universally popular "tell her you just want to remain friends" did not include what do when she looks like she will burst into tears or what you do a month later when seeing her out with another boy and you realise just how big a fool you have been.

Hurrah for marriage and long-term relationships. A bunch of flowers, a card with hearts on and a romantic meal/break makes you realise again just how much you love your partner and why you're together.

However, Valentine's Day was not always as commercialised or as fraught with stress or anxiety as it is today. My mum remembered, from her own childhood days in the Cotswolds. many tales and traditions of Valentine's Day and would tell us each year of what she knew and remembered as a child.

One I distinctly remember was a tradition she had told to her as a child in the early 1930's from her elderly relatives, (which would have placed it to about 1890). The tradition was based on the idea that your valentine was the first person of the opposite sex that you saw on Valentine's Day and this foretold the sort of person, hair colour, size, facial features etc that you would be fated to marry. This tradition developed further to the point where in a small village young men and women would go out of their way to ensure they were available to be seen when certain cottage doors were opened that morning. My mum learnt this from her elderly Aunt Hilda who told, when she was a young girl, of how she had to escort on Valentine's Day, her older sister, with eyes tight shut, all the way to school, until a certain young man appeared at which point sister was informed he was in sight and eyes were dutifully opened. This was meant to ensure that the object of your affection became smitten by you, although I am not sure if we ever found out if a great uncle had been acquired into the family tree that way.

My mum also believed as a girl the old wives' tales of your future spouse being dictated by which bird flew over your head. If a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire. My mum reckoned it was clearly a sparrow in her case (well she was married 47 years until her death).

She also taught us the valentine's games she played as a child; two I remember - Think of five or six names of boys (or girls in my case) you might marry. As you twist the stem of an apple, recite the names until the stem comes off. You will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off. Secondly cut an apple in half on Valentine's Day and count how many pips are inside - that's how many children you will have. I am not sure either proved accurate for her, but she had fun.

Often these tales of Valentine's Day in the past were told round the kitchen table on Shrove Tuesday, which brings me to the second and more delightful event of this month and that is pancakes.

Now my mum was not the best of cooks, but pancakes were a speciality for us boys made even more delightful because when we had pancakes we indulged ourselves with liberal lashings of sugar, Golden Syrup and lemon juice.

Furthermore, Pancake Day was great fun, as we boys got to toss a pancake ourselves over the gas cooker (no health and safety then.) Admittedly the pancake was small and quite thick, and mother's hand was there to guide us.

Even so we both revelled in the fact we could throw the pancake up in the air watch it turn over and caught it again in the frying pan. So, mealtimes became playtime and a drab February felt brighter.

I am now sure this happiness was mostly due to the massive intake of sugar in the meal and no doubt there were two boys with a massive sugar rush for hours after the pancakes were eaten. And to top it all there was a special item, bought especially for the occasion, the big tin of Lyons Golden Syrup, all green and gold with the picture of the lion and the bees on it with the words "out of the strong came forth sweetness" Only years later did I realise that it was a dead lion and not just sleeping as I thought and the quote was actually from the bible (Judges 14.14 I think.)

Neither I nor my brother would have cared, we loved the syrup; but we were not too keen on the lemon juice. Neither was my mum who was not keen on buying expensive lemons until in 1957, when I was five, she came back with a brand new thing she had bought from the Co-op, a plastic Jif lemon. It looked like a lemon, but without any of the hassle of cutting and squeezing and jumping back when the juice hit you in the eye. Lemon juice became fun for us children and economical for my mum. Plastic was all the rage and it did look just like a lemon which was more than you can say about the plastic daffodil she brought home for Easter... but that's maybe for another month!

As a young adult, I once again enjoyed Pancake Day with my own children, although the tin of Golden syrup was not a regular fixture and was replaced by cream and fruit reflecting modern trends. However, with children grown up and away, there is no real need to throw a pancake party at home and it is such a fath to get all the ingredients together and what will we use the rest of the golden syrup for after Pancake Day?

However, the good news is that this year, the first time in several years ,there is a real pancake party down at the church rooms this Shrove Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. It starts at 7pm and for a very reasonable sum of money, I will get two beautiful big pancakes, with a host of toppings and a glass of wine, which, let's face it, goes nicely with anything.

And to top it all along with the toppings, there will be good company to chat to and reminisce about their own stories about pancake day as well as speculating just what cards we may or may not get the day after, on Valentine's Day.

See you there and I wonder if I should just bring along a tin of Golden Syrup for old times' sake?

Until next month.

Stephen Dunn

The Beauty of Mayfield – Our Very Own Lake!



It rained a lot in December, so much so that Mayfield suddenly had its very own lake in the fields just beyond the terraces. These water meadows as the name suggests regular flood but nothing quite as large and spectacular as the lake that appeared at the very end of the year, looking beautiful as it reflected the bright winter skies after the storms had passed.



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Christmas in Mayfield - MARNA Children's Christmas Party



It can't be a party without a magician and the MARNA Children's Christmas Party on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December had just that, a full magic show, complete with audience participation. The party, for the children of Mayfield, was organised and supported by MARNA, Mayfield's own Neighbourhood Association. As well the Magic show, there was games, music, dancing, and a full party lunch.

The party started at 3pm and was great fun for all especially as a certain Mr S. Claus was rumoured to be coming complete with presents for all! Santa did not disappoint and in his special grotto on the stage, every child had the chance to meet him and receive a special present. It was a great start to a children's Christmas with many asking Santa to be sure to call on Christmas Eve. Our thanks to all the Marna volunteers who made it happen, to parents who kept everyone safe and of course to a certain Santa who stopped off from the North Pole to make our children very happy indeed. S.D.



### **Carols Recipes for February**

### Creamy Salmon Leek & Potato Traybake

Ingredients.

250g baby potatoes, thickly sliced

2 tbsp olive oil

1 leek, halved washed and sliced

1 garlic clove, crushed

70ml double cream

1 tbsp capers, plus extra to serve

1 tbsp chives, plus extra to serve

2 skinless salmon fillets

mixed salad to serve

### Method.

Heat the oven to 200c/180fan/gas

- 1 Boil the potatoes and cook for 8 mins. Drain and leave to steam dry in a colander for a few minutes. Toss the potatoes in half of the oil and season well in a baking tray. Put in the oven for 20 mins and toss halfway through the cooking time.
- 2 Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in frying pan over a medium heat. Add the leek and fry for 5 mins, until it begins to soften, Stir through the garlic for 1 min, then add cream, capers and 75ml of hot water, bring to a gentle boil, and stir through the chives.
- 3 Heat the grill to high. Pour creamed mixture over the potatoes, and then sit the salmon fillets on top. Grill for 7-8, or until just cooked through. Serve topped with extra chives and capers and salad if desired.

### All in one Banana and walnut loaf

This is a very easy cake and a great way to use the very ripe bananas no one fancies.

Ingredients.

75g soft margarine

110g caster sugar

1 large egg

225g plain flour

2 tsps baking powder

4 medium bananas

50g chopped walnuts

Grated rind of 1 lemon

Grated rind of 1 orange.

#### Method

Preheat the oven 180c/170fan/gas 4

Grease 2lb loaf tin and greased baking paper.

- 1. Place margarine, sugar, beaten egg, flour and baking powder into a large bowl and whisk till combined.
- 2. Add bananas walnuts and lemon and orange rinds after whisking and transfer into the loaf tin and level the top.
- 3. Bake in the centre of the oven for 50 55mins, until well risen and springs back. Leave to cool in the tin for 10mins then loosen around to edges before turning out on to a cooling rack. Very nice sliced with butter.

### Mayfield Book Club

The book for November was Queenie by Candice Carty- Williams. The book certainly caused a lot of discussion amongst the members. The story is about Queenie who is a 25yr old Black women living in London, straddling Jamaican and British Culture. She is in journalism and finding life difficult after a break up of her long-term boyfriend. The book caused consternation to the group by the graphic language and sexual descriptions but reading the novel to the end you can understand Queenie's behavior. The member's views were very mixed on the novel. If you don't want to read the book I understand it going to be on Channel 4 this year.

The December book was Conspiracy by S J Parris; this was such a change from the previous novel. The novel is set in Paris in 1585. The main character is a heretic turned spy called Giordano Bruno, Henri 111 is the King but he is in danger of being removed so this means the title Conspiracy really explains there are so many plots I cannot explain the story to do its justice. There is a touch of romance in the story but all ends well. We enjoyed the book but I am afraid most of us are such fans of the lawyer Shardlake novels by C J Sansom, which was set in the16th century Tudor England, although we enjoyed it, we couldn't get very excited

Carol Akers Happy Reading for 2024.

-----

### Laugh Lines..... Life Abundant

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing Christian outreach. They stopped at an old house, and proceeded up the path through a gauntlet of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow and asked them what they wanted. 'We'd like to tell you how you can live forever,' they answered.

The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment and then replied, Thank you but I don't think I could stand it!'



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- 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 x £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 <a href="mailto:treasurer@mramayfield.org.uk">treasurer@mramayfield.org.uk</a>.

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

When I hear stories about couples who have been married for exceptionally long periods of time – 30, 40, 50 even 60 years, I often wonder what their secret is: how have they managed to stick together for that long? By contrast, when I hear about celebrity marriages that barely last long enough for the ink to dry on their marriage certificates, I wonder where these people, who seem to have it all, are going so drastically wrong.

In the middle of February falls the great celebration that is Valentine's Day. Therefore I thought it appropriate to ask the question this month, what is love? What makes it last or fail? In recent weeks we have seen advertisements insisting we need to shower loved ones with cards, flowers, chocolates, and jewellery. If you believe those advertisements, then love is basically just an excuse to go shopping. But surely, there's more to love than this.

The festival on 14<sup>th</sup> February is <u>Saint</u> Valentine's Day. There are many legends surrounding this saint, but the most popular tells us that Valentine was a Christian priest in 3<sup>rd</sup> century Rome. Emperor Claudius II decreed young men were not to marry, as he believed marriage and children were a distraction from giving their true allegiance to Rome and being prepared to serve as soldiers in his army. Valentine believed this decree interfered with matters of the Church and God, so he is said to have married young lovers in secret. Eventually, Valentine was imprisoned but even in jail, he continued to preach and conduct marriages. When the Emperor heard this, he demanded Valentine should immediately deny his faith, or be beaten and beheaded.

Valentine was not intimidated. Just before he died, he wrote a farewell letter to Asterius, the woman he loved and signed it, "From Your Valentine". He died on 14<sup>th</sup> February 270 and in 496 Pope Gelasius decided that on February 14<sup>th</sup>, the church would honour the memory, devotion and faith of Saint Valentine. It's a long way from a faith that strong...to a card and presents.

Today in the church, we don't just celebrate romantic love, we celebrate the love that exists between parent and child, siblings, friends, one another. And, most importantly of all, we celebrate the love that God has for each one of us – a love that was demonstrated when God willingly chose to give up his glory, power and status, to take on human flesh and walk among us as Jesus Christ.

This year Valentines Day happens to fall on Ash Wednesday – the day when we begin the journey of Lent counting down to Easter. In the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday we see God's love for all people demonstrated through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Even though Valentine's Day has become associated with cards and presents, the love we are commemorating is one that is willing to sacrifice everything. That's the love that Jesus showed; the love Saint Valentine showed and that's the love that, Christians need to be willing to show to all today. On Valentines Day, and every day, we love because Christ first loved us.

Blessings, Nicola Rev Nicola Briggs, Superintendent Minister, Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

### **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 In Interregnum

Vicarage answerphone (Tel: 300022)

Churchwardens: Mr Charles Wimbush (Tel: 324083)

Mrs Maggie Cook (Tel: 345691)

Deputy Church warden
PCC Secretary
PCC Treasurer
Electoral Roll Officer

Mr Philip Cook
Amy Hawksworth
Mrs Catherine Mellor
Mrs Catherine Mellor

Organist Mrs Janet Knox (Tel: 346487)
Verger: Mr Doug Greenway (Tel: 344932)
Magazine Editor Mr Stephen Dunn (Tel: 342188)
Magazine Editor/Distribution Mrs Joyce Beeson (Tel: 346959)

Church Room Bookings and

Key Holder Mrs Charlotte Heathcote (07772 360472)

Bell Captain (Vacant)

cant)

### 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.)

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### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

All Morning Services at 10.45am.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Church Family Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Church Family Worship

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Morning Prayer 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Morning Prayer

(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: See magazine for details)

### <u>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</u>

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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