

# Holy Trinity and St Matthew's Church

*Your local church in Ronkswood*



[www.holytrinityandstmatthewronkswood.co.uk](http://www.holytrinityandstmatthewronkswood.co.uk)



@stmatthewronks

## TEAM THEME by Lay Reader Tim Parker

**I look to the mountains** ----- Psalm 121 v 1-2.

When Chris and I are in France we love to walk in the hills and mountains. For us it has so many benefits, such as healthy exercise in the fresh air, being close to nature, the joy of discovering new trails and new summits. One benefit of being in the mountains and hills is that when we are high we have a panoramic perspective of the land around and below us. We see the villages nestled on the hillsides and on the plain, we see the lakes, forests and sea. We see mountains and hills we haven't seen before. Every feature is part of the rich tapestry of the region and each one complements the other. We are gifted the possibility of new walks and new places to visit, new histories to discover and new people to meet.

Sometimes, as people of faith we need to enlarge our own perspectives, to look down, as it were, on our own lives and our faith. Perhaps to realise that we are part of a much bigger picture in a world where technology has made fast communication more accessible to us all; in which there are varied cultures, different faiths, different ways of believing, different histories, and different insights. It is a world which God loves in its entirety.

And what about new perspectives on our own communities and our own churches? Do we need to think of new ways of being church? Are there new questions to ask? How do we see ourselves in relation to our own communities and how can we better serve them? We can recognise that in the tapestry of faith we all have a key part to play and, whatever role that is, we are truly blessed.

The mountains and hills offer something different each time we see them. On some days they look sombre, on others they appear almost frightening. At times they show their vivid colours and rugged contours in the bright sunlight. They often have a mystical, magical appearance.

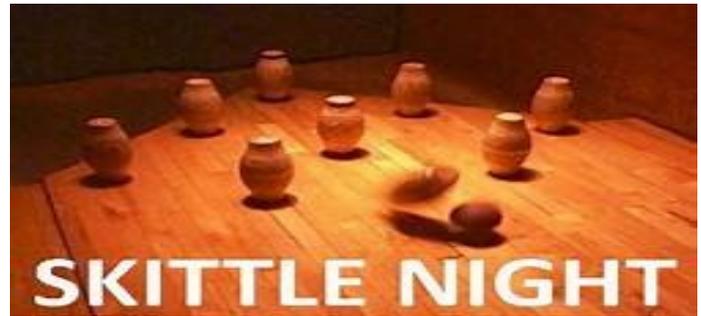
I once saw a landscape painting of the Lake District in which the colours looked unreal and it had an ethereal feel to it. Some years later, however, coming down a mountain I was stopped in my tracks, because there ahead of me was that picture. For me it was a surprising, magical and humbling experience. And I just had a sense of wonder and thankfulness.

Of course, how one person describes a mountain or hill is not necessarily how another person will describe it. It all depends from which direction they are looking. Even from the same direction they will notice different features. This is how it is with individual perceptions of God. One person's understanding will not necessarily be the same as another person's understanding. Shouldn't we always respect the sincerely held views of others even if we disagree with them?

The church does not have a monopoly of truth, just as no particular religion has a monopoly of truth. We cannot capture God in our creeds and in our best words. Descriptions of God are always coloured by human limitations.

In his book, "A Splash of Words", Cannon Mark Oakley (Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral) says this, "----the Bible is a collage of writings that remind us that God is not the easy object of our knowledge but the deepest cause of our wonder."

Elsewhere Mark talks about the need for a comma and not a full-stop. This means that there will always be more to discover, new things to learn, new insights, new things to do, new questions to ask. The journey continues.



## QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 12th October

7pm for 7:30pm start

At

The Punchbowl

£3 per person (nibbles included)

Teams of 4 or join one on arrival

## SKITTLES CHALLENGE

Back by popular demand

against

St Martin's Church

Tickets cost £5 (inc ploughman's supper)

14th September

7pm at

The Punchbowl

Please contact Penny for tickets.

## Travel Talk

Come along and enjoy an illustrated talk about Penny's travels in Scandinavia

Wednesday 24th October at 7pm

In the Lincoln Green Communal Lounge

Tickets £5 including light refreshments



We will be holding a harvest supper at Ronkswood Community Centre on Saturday 29th at 7pm.

Further details will be available nearer the time.



# STOP LOAN SHARKS

Intervention . Support . Education

In May, the diocesan Modern Day Slavery conference in Wordsley heard something about the dangers of illegal money lending. It's one of the ways in which some people can get trapped in slavery. It is also just as easy to hide as other slavery related crimes, but some simple awareness and a willingness to report it, can make all the difference and change people's lives.

A loan shark is someone who lends cash as an unauthorised business and they're not always easy to spot. They will at first appear friendly, just part of the community, but when you can't pay, they will turn on you.

A loan shark will often resort to threats, violence and intimidation, even if the debt has been paid off several times over. They will typically have little paperwork and, will add penalty charges for late payments. Sometimes they will add random sums to the bill.

Many victims keep paying because they think they can afford the agreed weekly sum, but they don't realise how much their continuing weekly payments add up to or they are too afraid to stop payments.

## Mikes Story

Aged 17, Mike\* was keen to buy his first car. When Peter\* offered to lend him £250, Mike agreed and began paying back in instalments until the loan was repaid. It was only then that Peter mentioned additional interest, Mike wasn't expecting this and found it difficult to repay, so Peter offered him a further loan to pay off the first.

This became a cycle and continued over the next two decades. Mike was trapped in a never ending spiral of debt, and struggled to get by, despite working two jobs. He would make large repayments but his outstanding balance would never drop below £9000. Over the years Mike paid a staggering £90,000 to the loan shark, all from an initial loan of £250.

On more than one occasion, Mike attempted suicide.

*"You wouldn't wish it on anybody" He said "It affected my relationship with my wife. If I wasn't at work, I was home arguing, and it affected the kids. They had nothing. Every Friday and Saturday he was sat outside my work. It was a living nightmare"*

The turning point was when Mike spotted an article in his local paper about a loan shark who had been prosecuted by the Team. Peter was now threatening to harm Mike's wife and realising he couldn't take any more Mike called the confidential hotline. From that point forwards he was supported and Peter was prosecuted and imprisoned.

*"I wish I'd known there was somewhere to go years ago," Mike said. "The Team were fantastic, they offered so much support, and delivered on every promise they made. It was such a relief when I found out Peter was arrested and then put in prison. I would tell anyone who is borrowing from a loan shark to be confident to stand up and speak out- the Team will support you the whole way. Even a year later the Team are always there for me, regularly in touch and always on the end of the phone."*

If you're worried about the impact of a loan shark, call the team in confidence on 0300 555 2222, Text: 07860 022116, email: [reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk](mailto:reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk) or

visit [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk).

**Worship for August**

**10.00am – ATIC at The Punchbowl**

**Sunday 5<sup>TH</sup> August**

**800am - Holy Communion at**

**The Vicarage**

**10:00am Parish Communion at**

**The Punchbowl**

**6.30pm - A Team service at St Martin's  
to say farewell to George. All Welcome**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> August**

**9am Morning Prayer @**

**Lincoln Green**

**Sunday 12<sup>TH</sup> August**

**No 8am Service**

**10:00am ATIC at The Punchbowl Pub**

**From 19th August there will be no 8am  
services at Ronkswood. All are warmly  
invited to attend St Martin's**

**Sunday 19th August**

**10am - Parish Communion at**

**The Punchbowl Pub**

**Tuesday 21st August**

**11am - Perry Manor Service**

**Sunday 26th August**

**10am - Family Communion at**

**The Punchbowl Pub**



Maggs

Clothing Project is appealing for  
donations of:

- ◆ men's clothing, they need trousers  
in sizes 28" and 30" .
- ◆ toiletries
- ◆ household goods, no sharp knives  
or glass - but rather things like  
saucepans and frying pans
- ◆ Electrical items

Please note—All items donated should  
be in good working order and

Condition. Please contact 01905 25027  
for further details or visit them on

Facebook

**Newsletter**

We would love to keep you informed  
via our newsletter. Should you wish to  
receive an electronic copy of our news-  
letter via email then please feel free to  
email the address below .

samanthajouncey1976@gmail.com

Also we are always looking for articles  
to print in our newsletter so if you  
have an event you would like us to  
print or an article you would like to  
share please email the above address.

We would love to hear from you!