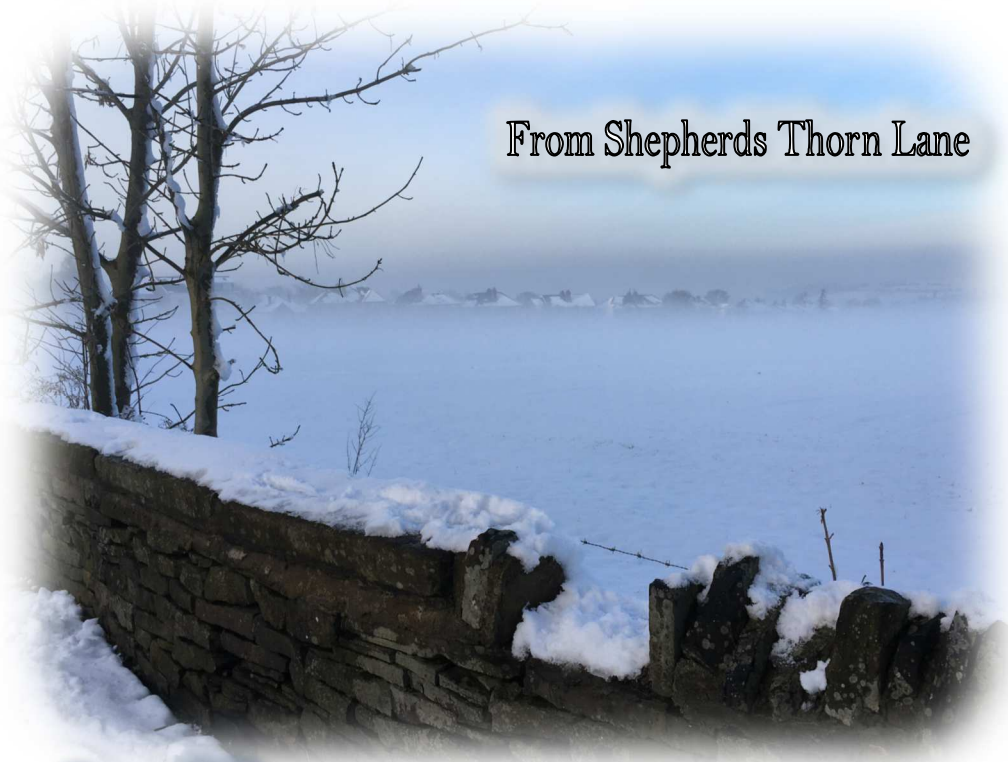


St John the Divine Rastrick

Your Parish Magazine

From Shepherds Thorn Lane



£1.50

January 2025

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE

Here is a list of regular activities which occur in our church.
Please contact Group Leaders for details of their activities.

Sunday Services in Church

- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Joint Benefice Service (5th Sunday as announced)

Mondays in the Community Hall

- 6:00 p.m. Rainbows and Brownies
- 7:30 p.m. Guides
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday Meet - 50 Archbell Avenue
- 7:00 p.m. Beer & Banter Men's Group (Various Mondays, monthly
at The Four Sons, Clough Lane) - Alan: 07756 035591

Tuesdays in Church

- 2:00 p.m. Mothers' Union (3rd Tuesday in the month)

Tuesdays in the Community Hall

- 12:00 noon Community Lunch (1st Tuesday in the month)
- 1:30 p.m. Reminiscent Cinema (1st Tuesday in the month)
- 1:00-2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi
- 6:30 p.m. Cubs
- 8:00 p.m. Scouts



Wednesday Service in Church

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th weeks in the month)

Wednesdays in the Community Hall

- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Nighters (1st Wednesday in the month)
in the Conference Suite.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (by Zoom). Alan:07756 035591

Rev'd Michelle writes



As we enter a new year I would firstly like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to St John's in 2024, and especially those involved in making all our recent Christmas services and events such a success. It was a joy to see numbers increasing, especially at our Christingles, and it is a joy to minister among you. God is good.

Now I wonder if any of you have made any new year resolutions. Maybe you've resolved to recycle more, take more exercise, give something up or take something on. As we welcome in another new year it's a good time to take stock and see if any changes might need to be made. And of course, it's not just our everyday lives that might need an overhaul. We need to pay attention to our spiritual life too. So, a good question to ask is: what can I do to draw closer to God in the coming weeks and months?

One thing you might consider is coming along to the *Moving On* course which begins week commencing 6th January, with a choice of three different days, times and venues. Hopefully there is one which you can attend, or you can mix and match and move between groups if that suits you. There are seven sessions, each with videos and time for discussion, and each designed to help us go deeper in our relationship with God. There are more details elsewhere in this magazine, pick up a leaflet in church or speak to me or Alan Hoggard for more information.

Whatever you decide to do, I pray that you might draw closer to God this year and know a little bit more of his great love for you. With my prayers and every blessing,

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - JANUARY

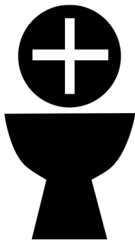
Sunday 3rd Jan. - 11:00 - The Epiphany - All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 12th Jan. - 11:00 - The Baptism of Christ - Holy Communion

Sunday 19th Jan. - 11:00 - Epiphany 2 - Morning Worship

Sunday 26th Jan. - 11:00 - Epiphany 3 - Holy Communion

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - JANUARY



Wednesday 1st - No service

Wednesday 8th - 10:30 - St John's

(a longer service than usual, to incorporate the
MU Wave of Prayer)

Wednesday 15th - 10:30 - St Matthew's

Wednesday 22nd - 10:30 - St John's

Wednesday 29th - No service on 5th Wednesdays

FORTHCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Wednesday March 5th - Ash Wednesday - 7:00pm. St John's
- ◇ Sunday April 6th - Holy Communion - 10:30 - St Matthew's
- ◇ Thursday April 17th - Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm. - St Matthew's
- ◇ Friday April 18th - Good Friday - 7:00pm. - St John's

Please join Rev'd Michelle live on St John's Facebook page for Morning Prayer at 8.30am every morning Tuesday to Saturday, resuming in the New Year on Wednesday 8th Jan.



or you can catch up later in the day on Facebook
or via the link on the home page of our Website.

Daily Lectionary Readings January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30-Dec	31-Dec	01-Jan	02-Jan	03-Jan	04-Jan
Psalms 111 Isaiah 59.1-15a John 1.19-28	Psalms 102 Isaiah 59.15b-end John 1.29-34	Psalms 8 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Psalms 18.1-30 Isaiah 60.1-12 John 1.35-42	Psalms 127 Isaiah 60.13-end John 1.43-end	Psalms 89.1-37 Isaiah 61 John 2.1-12
06-Jan	07-Jan	08-Jan	09-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan
Epiphany Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Psalms 99 Isaiah 63.7-end 1 John 3	Psalms 46 Isaiah 64 1 John 4.7-end	Psalms 2 Isaiah 65.1-16 1 John 5.1-12	Psalms 97 Isaiah 65.17-end 1 John 5.13-end	Psalms 98 Isaiah 66.1-11 2 John
13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan
Psalms 2 Amos 1 1 Cor 1.1-17	Psalms 8 Amos 2 1 Cor 1.18-end	Psalms 19 Amos 3 1 Corinthians 2	Psalms 21 Amos 4 1 Corinthians 3	Psalms 67 Amos 5.1-17 1 Corinthians 4	Psalms 29 Amos 5.18-end 1 Corinthians 5
20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan
Psalms 145 Amos 6 1Cor 6.1-11	Psalms 132 Amos 7 1Cor 6.12-end	Psalms 81 Amos 8 1 Cor 7.1-24	Psalms 76 Amos 9 1 Cor 7.25-end	Psalms 27 Hosea 1.1 – 2.1 1 Corinthians 8	Conversion of Paul Acts 9.1-22 Matthew 19.27-30
27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	01-Feb
Psalms 40 Hosea 2.18 – end of 3 1 Cor 9.15-end	Psalms 34 Hosea 4.1-16 1 Cor 10.1-13	Psalms 45 Hosea 5.1-7 1 Cor 10.14 – 11.1	Psalms 47 Hosea 5.8 – 6.6 1 Cor 11.2-16	Psalms 61 Hosea 6.7 – 7.2 1 Cor 11.17-end	Psalms 68 Hosea 8 1 Corin 12.1-11

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivinerastrick>

Download App 'Lectionary: from the CofE'

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Other reflections:

<https://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today>

PRAYER PAGE

Do you have a favourite prayer, or have you come across a special prayer recently which you'd like to share?

A Prayer for Continuing the Work of Christmas

When the carols have been stilled,
 When the star-topped tree is taken down,
 When family and friends are gone home,
 When we are back to our schedules,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To welcome the refugee,
 To heal a broken planet,
 To feed the hungry,
 To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
 To share our gifts,
 To seek justice and peace for all people,
 To bring Christ's light to the world. **Amen**

—*Michael Dougherty*

A New Year Prayer for Fresh Starts

Lord,
 Whether I leave behind a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
 I pause to give thanks.
 Thank you for being with me every day of every year.
 Thank you for making all things new and for giving me the
 grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.
 Remind me of your presence in the days to come, even when I
 feel pushed and rushed by busyness.
 Be glorified in my life this year. **Amen.**

—*Heather C King*

From 'The Pioneer Woman'

WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION

SEEING GOD DO A NEW THING

ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY 10 JANUARY

10AM-12:30PM

DEWSBURY MINSTER

A Retreat

Join poet and theologian, Revd Canon Dr Mark Pryce,
who brings insights from poetry and human experience
to shed light on Luke's Gospel.

1PM-3PM

Join Leeds Children and Youth Team
for stages of life in school and community
for creative ideas and worship.

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY

3PM

HALIFAX MINISTER

A service to celebrate Huddersfield Episcopal Area
and to mark the 10th anniversary of Leeds Diocese.

Presider - Archdeacon Bill Braviner

Preacher - Bishop Smitha Prasadam

Prayer Ministry



Prayer Ministry is offered monthly during the 11am Parish Communion Service.

An opportunity to bring concerns, people and situations before God in prayer alongside someone else.

Please come to the main door of the Lady Chapel after receiving communion if you would like to take part.

Upcoming dates are as follows:

Sunday 26th January

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday 16th March

Sunday 18th May

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Phil 4:6)

Coffee and Conversation

**Next Date:
Friday 24th January
12:30 -1:30**

**Come and join me each month
for lunch/coffee
in The Platform Café
Railway Bridge View**



Very informal - may include:

exchanging news

prayer

**a discussion around the Gospel reading
for the following Sunday**

HAND TO MOUTH MINISTRIES



Hand to Mouth is a Christian charity that works in over 60 schools throughout Kirklees, Calderdale, Bradford, Wakefield, Sheffield and the Diocese of Leeds.

We run lessons in schools, which may include Godly Play, story telling, puppets and art work alongside an Amazing Journey.

We also run staff training.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our volunteers, especially for their health during the winter months.
- Pray for work in our new schools next term and positive relationship building with the staff.
- Pray for encouraging responses from our mail out to the primary schools and special schools across Kirklees and Calderdale.
- Pray for contact with other faiths and denominations to widen the impact of our work in schools.

Dates for your diary:

Next prep day: **11th February 2025**

Prep days happen at our base at Huddersfield Mission, Lord Street.

Our volunteers help us prepare materials for us to take into school such as cutting templates, packing activity bags, etc. We would love to see new helpers! Get in touch for more information.

Save the date: **Saturday 24th May 2025**

We are celebrating our 25th Birthday with a Family Fun afternoon.

More information to follow!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Songs
of
Praise**

A service of favourite hymns



**St John the Divine
St. Johns Street
Rastrick
HD6 1HT**

**Sunday 19th January
4:00 p.m.**



Organised by the Rastrick Group of Churches

If you would like to suggest and introduce a hymn at this service please speak to Rev'd Michelle as soon as possible. Thank you.

A Suggestion from Alan...



Your quiet time

"You're my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me."

Psalm 119:114 MSG

What's stopping you from having a regular quiet time with God? Maybe the very thought feels filled with 'shoulds' and 'ought tos'; like another item to add to the unending checklist of your life. So, you think, 'Maybe later, when life slows down.' We need to shed the myths and impractical expectations the Enemy uses to prevent us from experiencing the joy of knowing Jesus and being known by Him. David wrote: "The one thing I ask of the Lord – the thing I seek most – is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me...My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming" (Psalm 27:4-6, 8 NLT). When David wrote those words, there was no temple or 'house of the Lord'. So, what did he mean? That God is as close to you as a prayer; that you can seek the Lord, delight in the Lord, meditate on the Lord, and talk with the Lord anywhere and anytime. The words 'you're my place of quiet retreat' mean you can withdraw from people, pressures, and problems and draw fresh strength from the Lord by communing with Him in your heart and mind. It can happen anywhere and anytime.



MU MATTERS

Mothers' Union Matters....here at St John's, around the corner and across the world!

Amazingly I feel that the month of December has been quiet for our Branch. Not so in the wider Church but here we have been able to stand still and take a breath.

Disappointingly the end of the Triennium for our MU Diocese Service at Bradford Cathedral on Sat 23 November was cancelled at the last minute due to bad and very uncertain weather. I was able to attend an anti-domestic abuse service at Halifax Minster and I went with Mabel and Carol Sanderson. It was a lovely reflective service where we prayed for all those caught up in domestic violence and abusive behaviour. There was a heart wrenching sketch depicting the control partners may have, using 12 or so different silk scarfs which started off as gifts and then as the number increased how they suffocated and imprisoned the partner. Then the sketch continued as the person got help and support from others and gradually the scarfs were lifted, leaving a calm and less vulnerable person. I hesitate to always say the female or to use personal pronouns since there is evidence that females also control their male partners.

The famous MU Goodie Stall was at the back of Church on Sunday 1st December and it kicked off fun and celebrations for the month.

The MU Wave of Prayer on Wednesday 8 January is being held in our Lady Chapel at the beginning of next year. This coincides with the Benefice's mid-week Eucharist Service, so that will be amazing to include prayers for MU Branches across the world and to read out some pre-prepared prayers which will enlighten us all and those who are attending, to the life and culture in some of our link Parishes in Africa and the Solomon Islands. At the end of the Service the Wave of Prayer continues into another Parish, and after each 30 minutes passes through and across England, the UK, and across the world. Everyone, as ever, is welcome.

Then on Tuesday 21 January the MU Branch go out for their “Christmas Lunch in January”!!! We are going to the Royal and Ancient. And then the MU year, celebrations, fun, prayers and reflections start all over again.

A blessed 2024 to you all, and great hopes and prayers for a very successful and thankful 2025.

*With love,
Julia*



Some Christmas crafting with the MU at Railway Bridge View

Mothers' UNION

MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

A message from Pat Lee:

Thank you to everyone who bought my cooking apples. £75 was raised and will be donated to The Safe House in Mara.



BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL FOODBANK

Thank you for your continuing support. It is much appreciated.

Rosemary & Norman



Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar

(and in this case, also the star)



visiting the homes in the Austrian Village of Alpbach for Epiphany.

The following is then chalked on the lintel above the doors of the houses:

20 C - M - B 25

..the initial letters of their names enclosed by the year (2025)

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

You are invited to join me
to watch
the wonderful film

“THE LION, THE
WITCH, AND THE
WARDROBE”

on

Saturday January 18th

at 12.30pm for a 1pm start,
in the Conference Suite at St. John's.

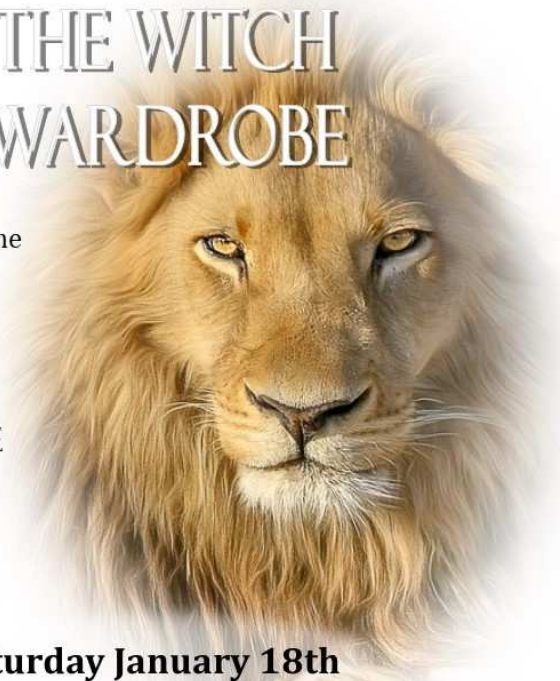
Please bring some food for a bring and share lunch.
Hot drinks will be provided.

Don't expect to go away empty handed -
you will be provided with some questions to think about.

You are also warmly invited to a follow up session
from 2-4pm on Saturday 25th January,
when we shall be discussing our thoughts
on some of the issues addressed in the film.

The film lasts just over 2 hours.

Anne Ward

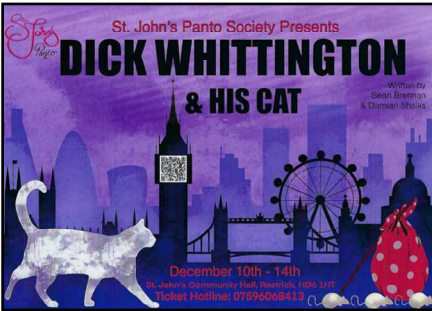




St. John's Pantomime Society

Dick Whittington and His Cat

...have found refuge on the gold-paved streets of Old London town after their visit to Rastrick, and what a successful visit it was.



Every member of the cast gave of their very best and it was obvious, by just watching them, how much they were enjoying themselves performing to sell-out audiences each night. We had new members plus many of our “old stagers” and they all worked well together bringing laughter and tears out of

the audience just at the correct time. The chorus of 13, of which 8 were under secondary school age were talented, vociferous and, like the cast, loving every minute of the shows. Diane, our MD plus Christie and Eleanor, our Choreographers know just how to get the best out of the children and adults. Our new piano was used to its best by Diane and the selection of songs proved very moving. An audience member commented how marvellous the chorus were compared to another local panto who had a much larger, but far less enthusiastic chorus. The scenery was so colourful and artistic and the wardrobes were equally well designed and fitting for the show; how lucky we are that we have such talented people and don't have to pay massive costs to hire these assets. Stage management was flawless with the audiences totally unaware as to what was going on in order for them to see a flawless finished product. The large and small props were equally impressive with Fitzwarren's stores shining and the fishes in the underwater scene unbelievably colourful, bringing with them the “wow” factor. Our new lights, including a new spot, were “spot on” (did you see what I did there?) and the sound effects caused plenty of laughs during the show. Our prompters who had attended many rehearsals were almost redundant during show week, just as we like it. Make-up was very impressive with much thought having gone into it and everyone arrived on stage on cue thanks to the devotion of our Caller.

We must also thank our publicity staff, photographer, ticket organisers, bar, shop and tea attendants, front of house staff plus the organisers of the last night party and, of course, all our willing mums etc who turn up to ensure that everything runs like clockwork. Our raffle donors were amazing this year with almost 90 prizes donated...a huge thank you to you all. BUT, to make everything worthwhile you need audiences and ours turned out to be the very best we could have wished for (including some from St Matthew's who obviously wanted to learn how to put on a proper pantomime).

Earlier in the year I, along with my daughters, decided that, due to home circumstances, this would be my last year as Producer/Director and Secretary and this turned out to be the correct decision when I had a serious fall at rehearsal and broke two ribs plus other bits and pieces. As a result of this my Assistant Director had to step into the breach and was responsible for much of the work that I would have been doing. For this I offer my HUGE THANKS to my friend of many years, Neil Denham who did a fantastic job and kept the pressure off me.

Eventually the realisation came at the end of the last show that this was it for me and I would be leaving the family with whom I had been involved for well over forty years (over half of my life!). It wasn't easy and many tears were shed, by my family, by many audience members, by a myriad of people on stage, some of whom I'd known for the majority of those 40+ years, and, of course, by me, but it was the right decision.

I was presented with a very rare whisky, but, more importantly, a book with memories, thanks and good luck messages from so many people involved with this, and previous years shows; SOMETHING I WILL TREASURE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

As Bob Hope always used to finish his shows "Thanks for the memories". I have been so lucky to do something I have enjoyed so much for over half of my life, so lucky to have been involved with so many wonderful people and so lucky that my genetic family have always supported me in my passion of pantomime.

This year was the 50th show and I trust there will be at least another 50!

With my love to you all,

Graham Readshaw

What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



Led the worship for the Barnabas ReWeave Course



MU Closing Down Service Hanging Heaton



MU Crafts at Railway Bridge



Singing with the Rastrick Voices at Paddock Orchestra's Christmas Concert



The Vicar in Panto Land



Church Christmas Lunch



Churches Together
Carol Singing at Tesco



Carols & Nativity
at Cygnet Lodge



Carol Service
Rastrick Hall & Grange



Carol Service
Railway Bridge View



St Matthew's Christingle



Nine Lessons & carols
(with some of the
Rastrick Voices)



St John's
Christingle

See also next page...

What the Vicar got up to during Advent and Christmas!

To the tune of 'Partridge in a Pear Tree'!



Four Advent Sundays

Three Church Christingles

Three Care Home Carols

Two Wedding Meetings

Two School Assemblies

Two School Christingles

One Paddock Concert

One MU Branch Close

One Healing Service

One Tesco Carols

One Christmas Crafting

Two Christmas Mornings

SIX PANTO SHOWS

One Christmas lunch

Two schools in Church

One Midnight Mass

..and a Nursery Nat-i-i-vi-ty!





Music News

A longer than usual 'Music News' this month as I just want to say a very big "THANK-YOU" to all the singers and players who worked so hard to contribute to our music (in our Worship and otherwise) during December and before, not only on the day but in numerous rehearsals! I thought you might like to see some photos:

Firstly, the Rastrick Voices at Paddock Orchestra's Christmas Concert, held this year at our church. It was a real 'St. John's affair', with the Rastrick Voices performing two carols on their own, in addition to leading the singing in the orchestra carols!



Rod was the narrator for a very Yorkshire piece in the style of 'Peter and the Wolf', as well as having his own spot in the second half. Anne and Pam played in the orchestra, of course, but the highlight had to be Blossom singing 'Walking in the Air' with full orchestral accompaniment.

For our services during December, it was lovely that every one of our organists played for at least one service; Philip on 8th, Graham Rayner on 15th, David on 22nd, Granville at the Christmas Eve, Midnight, and Graham Kennedy for Christmas Morning. The Music Group also played; on their usual first and last Sundays in the month.



Graham Kennedy was also the organist for our Nine Lessons and Carols. He spent a good deal of time also playing for some of the rehearsals (thank you Jane, for the rest) and spending time with the organ, to find the perfect sounds for the organ accompaniments.

I'm so proud of this group of singers. They worked so hard to make our Nine Lessons and Carols the very moving, wonderfully musical service that it was! We were very pleased to welcome Chris Redfearn and Rod Crampton into the basses, which gave an additional depth to the sound.



Of course, this wasn't the only offering the Voices gave of themselves at Christmas. Here are a few pictures of our 'Voices on Tour', along with a few other members of the congregation.



*Rastrick Hall
& Grange*



St Winifred's

*Railway Bridge
View*





Once again it was a real joy and absolute pleasure to play for the Christingle services with



this wonderful band - the 'extended' Music Group! Welcoming back Fran, Karen from Selby, and Holly & Rebekah back from Uni. for what has become very much a part of their Christmas each year, we enjoyed the added sound of extra woodwind.and Kim was just amazing on alto saxophone! It was lovely to have Archdeacon Bill Braviner back with us on drums too! This is the icing on the cake - especially during, "Show me the way to shine for Jesus" to the tune of Amarillo!

The high point for me though, is always the singing of 'Away in Manger' to a beautiful flute duet in a candlelit church! Actually, I found it difficult to sing - I just wanted to listen and take in this wonderfully moving, spiritual moment. Literally lost for words!

Thank-you from me, to ALL of St John's musicians!

Pam

I would like to Thank Pam and the Rastrick voices and music group for their hard work in rehearsing and bringing beautiful singing into our services. The Nine lessons and Carols were lovely along with the music group at the Christingle service which was appreciated by All.

Margaret Raine

ECO CHURCH



On the Campaign Trail



How's our beleaguered planet fared during 2024?

The News is telling us quite clearly that fires, floods, cyclones are becoming more frequent, and the polar ice caps are melting. Many species are under threat. Plastic pollution is increasing...

I find it very reassuring that Jesus (e.g. in Matthew Ch 24) told us the end times would be difficult. My hope isn't in the political process or in technology, rather in the Resurrection of Jesus who said to his disciples, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16 vs 33). BUT I care deeply about our world, as He does, knowing that the victims of climate change have done the least to cause it.

COP29 wasn't a complete flop. Hosted by Khazakstan, an oil state, commitments to phase out fossil fuels were always going to struggle. Rich countries weren't queuing out the door to commit finance to developing nations. But at least these subjects are becoming centre stage and will top future agendas.

The International Plastics Treaty Negotiations didn't end with an agreement. But the charities were pleased that a weak, watered-down treaty was rejected. Efforts continue to agree a treaty to eliminate plastic waste.

In both cases, the U.K made a contribution we can be proud of. On 24th January, MP's will vote on a Climate and Nature Bill (CAN) which, if it passes, will legally commit the government to a course of sustainability. More to come soon!

John

The Big Garden Bird Watch



This year why not take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch. It's really simple. Choose one hour between the 24th and the 26th January and settle down with binoculars if you have them and a notepad and record the birds you see during that hour.

You only record the birds that actually land in your patch.
Go on the the RSPB website for more details.

Rosemary

The Men of the Churches of Rastrick

Host



**Beer and
Banter
2025**



Mondays at

The Four Sons, Rastrick 7pm

20th Jan – Working in New Hall - Margaret France

17th Feb – The High Dales Way – Paul & Ken

17th Mar – Lenten Juggling – Daryll Hackett

28th Apr – Wire-in Calderdale - Paul Thompson

All Men Welcome

Further Details call Alan 07756035591

A Reight Good Do



Ay, it wor mooare ner a tea-drinkin: another o' Cherry's famous Christmas dinners!

Ther mud a' bin sixty on us gathered i' St John's church 'all on t' thurd o' December this year. Just abaht reight time - early December, afooare us belly's wer' owerfull wi' ter much seasonal stuff.

Tasty starters - mine wor a nice leet, juicy melon dish 'at slipped dahn as easy as ought, an' got tase buds goin, so Ah felt ready fer what wor ter come.

Ah'll let in ter a secret: Pam an' me managed ter slip in an extra course. Wi shared t' two main courses an' 'ad 'alf a delicious melt-i'-mahth salmon fillet an' 'alf a plate loaded wi tasty, mahth-watterin turkey an' gammon. 'An what wi all trimmins - pigs i' blankets, stuffin an' veggies - by gum it wor a grand start ter festive eytin. Ay, an' suppin an' all, cos ther' wor plenty o' drinks goin rahnd, wine or fruit juices, whichiver tha wanted.



Fer t' puddin, tha could chose between Christmas puddin, eton mess, tiramisu or ice-cream. Ah'm sure t' others wer' just as good i' ther awn way, but we 'ad a tasty, not-to-'eavy Christmas puddin an' wi lashins o' custard, it too slipped dahn, no bother.

As if that wern't enough, then come t' cheese an biscuits an 'if tha'd still room mince pies an' chocs wi tea or coffee.



All this served up bi' some bonny, buxom smilin young lasses, trippin abaht from table ter table wi it all. Ay, the' did a mile or two that day, Ah'll tell thi!

It all added up ter a lot o'wark fer some but much appreciated bi us diners!

Ay, it wor a reight good do!

Rod

BRIGHOUSE & ELLAND TREFOIL GUILD

We have been trying to recruit new members for several years now, but so far not much luck. Four of our faithful members can no longer come to meetings due to ill health and one of our founder members has died.

Trefoil Guild is here to support Girlguiding units and also find fun, friendship and numerous activities at a National, Regional, County and local level.

You do not need to have been previously involved with Girlguiding (or Scouting). If you are interested or need more information please see the county website - West Yorkshire West Trefoil Guild County Chair Dawn Rogers.

Grants are available for new units so we can help build for the future.

Many thanks, Carole Waller



St. JOHN'S RUCKSACK CLUB

January 18th Walk

LEAVING CHURCH at 10.15 am

WALK APPROX 5 Miles

Walk Leader - Rod France 07920238561

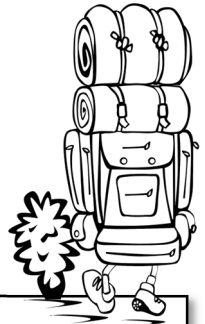
FIRST MAKE YOUR WAY TO SPOUT HOUSE LANE, HOVE EDGE, BRIGHOUSE FOR ON ROADSIDE PARKING JUST AFTER THE POND PUB PRIOR TO THE WALK STARTING.

THIS WALK WILL TAKE YOU VIA THE AREAS OF HOVE EDGE, SHIBDEN CULTURE PARK and HALL, BEACON HILL TRIG POINT, WITH IT'S SPLENDED VIEW OVERLOOKING HALIFAX.

THE WALK RETURNS VIA BANK TOP MAGNA VIA, SUTCLIFFE WOOD LANE AND BACK TO OUR STARTING POINT.

NOTE. If any walkers would like to join me after our walk for my usual end of walk get - together for a Fish and chips meal at the Golden Hind, Brighthouse.

I will take your orders on the day of the walk.



Please note the AGM will take place on Wednesday 29th January
at 7.30 in the Sturrock Room.

If you are attending and wish to have Pie and Peas
please let me know by Friday 24th January.

Roger
07551914243

MOVING ON

Moving On! is perfect for people who want to grow in their relationship with God, it's for anyone who just wants to move on.



Feeling as though you are in a rut, or living a life of highs and lows? Not sure where you are going in your life?

Seven sessions based around a video that include input and thought-provoking personal stories “down to earth and honest”.

Whether you go to church when you can or not much then this course is for you if you are willing to consider.....

- the benefits and challenges of being a follower of Jesus
- being an active member of church
- Christian worship
- growing your relationship with God
- explore the Trinity and the Holy Spirit
- Christian stewardship
- being wholehearted disciples



Mondays starting 6th Jan. 2pm@ 50 Archbell Avenue HD6 3SU

Thursdays starting 9th January 7pm @ St Johns (Conf.Suite)

Saturdays starting 11th January 10am @ St Matthews

For further details contact Alan 07756035591

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

As we move into a New Year, I thought this little hymn which I learned in Sunday School when I was about four or five, might lift our spirits.

Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him;
Well He sees and knows it if our light is dim;
He looks down from heaven, sees us shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around
Many kinds of darkness in this world abound:
Sin, and want, and sorrow—we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, as we work for Him,
Bringing those that wander from the paths of sin;
He will ever help us, if we shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Shirley



I can remember singing this in Sunday School too!
In fact, I can't read it without singing it at the same time in my head! Ed.

A CELEBRATION OF

SIMON & GARFUNKEL

AS HEARD ON
BBC RADIO

PERFORMED **LIVE BY**
TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY

The UK's **NUMMER 1 NON TRIBUTE SHOW**



★★★★★

"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class."

★★★★★

"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy."



SCAN ME

SATURDAY 8TH FEB 2025

ST JOHN THE DIVINE RASTRICK HD6 1HT

Doors 6.45pm Show starts 7.30 / Refreshments Available

Tickets £15 (cash only) From Ryecorn Wholefoods 33/35 Bethel St, Brighouse or Scan QR Code above

Or email bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk for general details.

www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg

Tickets also available from church

Monday Meet 2pm – 4pm

At the home of Shirley Stow, 50 Archbell Avenue HD6 3SU

An informal gathering with the opportunity to unpack the bible readings from the previous day, talk current issues and tackle everyday dilemmas, drink coffee and eat cake

Faith, fun and fellowship

For further information or to confirm location call Shirley (01484-714209) or Alan (07756035591)

All welcome

Coffee & Cake

An opportunity for all Organisations to make a little money for their organisation...




...by hosting a Coffee & Cake morning in church on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 10.00 - 12 noon. Church will provide Tea and Coffee. You will just need milk and cakes - 2 people can host this event.

Dates available for 2025:

January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, June 14th, August 9th, Sept 13th, Oct 11th, Nov 8th, Dec 13th.

This a good opportunity to meet together for a good natter. Christian Aid will hold their contribution on May 10th which will include lunch. Please contact: Cherry if you are interested: 07816 757334

Cherry 

Eco Church - Swap Stall

The next
Eco Church
Swap Stall
will be on:
Sat. 11 & Sun. 12 January



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch
will be on Tuesday 7th January, 12:00
Followed by the Community Cinema



COFFEE & CAKE

The next Coffee & Cake
will be on Saturday 11th January, 10:00 - 12:00



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

The next Coffee & Conversation at Railway Bridge View
will be on Friday 24th January, 12:30 - 1:30



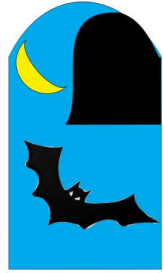
AFTERNOON TEA

The next Afternoon Tea
will be on Saturday 24th May, in church. 2:00 - 4:30



PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

We'll hope you managed to make the paper Christmas Tree last month. Here are a couple of quizzes for you to try on those cold January days.



25 – 1 January Diary

The following all have a connection with the month of January. See if you can solve them.

- 1) What singer was born with the name David Robert Jones on January 8th 1947?
- 2) January is named after the Roman God Janus, of what was he the God?
- 3) On which day in January is Burns Night?
- 4) Which Commonwealth country celebrates its National Day on 26th January?
- 5) Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th or the Sunday between 2nd and 8th of January. What does the feast day commemorate?
- 6) What was the title of Barbara Dicksons number 11 UK hit in 1980?
- 7) Which London mainline station was opened on 11th January 1864?
- 8) The wearing of seat belts in the front seats of cars was made compulsory in the UK in the January of which year?
- 9) Louis Braille, who was born on January 4th 1809, introduced the Braille system of writing for blind and the visually impaired. What is the maximum number of raised dots used to represent each character?
- 10) Which London Street became the first in the world to be lit by gas lights on January 28th 1807?



25 – 2 Mind Conundrums

Can you solve the following?

A horse travels a certain distance each day. Strangely enough, two of its legs travel 20 miles each day and the other two legs travel 21 miles. It would seem that two of the horse's legs must be almost a mile ahead of the other two legs, but of course this is not the case. Since the horse is quite normal, how is this situation possible?



2) Clara Clutter has an uncanny ability to be able to listen to the radio, carry on a conversation, or even watch TV while reading a book. One night Clara was watching TV while reading a book, when suddenly the power went out. Her husband decided to go to bed. Clara, however, kept reading, even though the room was completely dark. How could she continue to read?

3) Picture a ship at anchor. Over the side hangs a rope ladder with half metre rungs. The tide rises a half metre per hour. At the end of five hours, how much of the ladder will remain above the water assuming nine rungs were above the water when the tide began to rise ?

Last month's answers

24-21 Christmas Dinners

1) Head 2) Goose 3) Stir up Sunday 4) Silver Sixpence

5) Figgy Pudding 6) Air Dried Cod 7) Tar 8) Edward VII

9) Wattle 10) Denmark (although there are similar traditions in Norway, Sweden and Finland)

MORE NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY...

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life!!!

The past year was full of ups and downs for many of us. Let us put all that behind us and look forward to this New Year.

Jesus said, “**Do Not Worry** what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”



And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you?” We worry about our family, our friends, our job, our finances, our health, and all kinds of other things. Worrying doesn’t get you anywhere. Instead, we must choose to bring our anxieties and our requests to our Heavenly Father. Only then will we experience true, supernatural peace in the midst of our worldly troubles.

New Years usually have us thinking about new Resolutions for better living. Have you made one?

I wanted to change my car years ago and felt cautious about it. I looked at one I liked and saw the number plate was DWT (Do Wit - DO IT.) and, ridiculous as it seems now, I bought it. I swapped it after ten years! I am not suggesting you adopt this rather silly slide rule to measure the right choices you make. Whatever we think about doing but keep putting off, whatever we want to do but feel it’s not possible, DO IT. Think positive and feel energised into being the person you know you are. God wants us to be the best we can. He knows our struggles and is there to hold our hand should we stumble.

But we must help ourselves too. Don't hold back. Best foot forward. By this time next year, you will think "I DID IT"!

My resolution is to try to keep mobile! Over the cold winter months I have become more sedentary rather than out walking etc. Preparing for and sharing Christmas with friends and family, I became more active and felt better for it; hence my resolution to find things to motivate me to keep on the move. Roll on the bowling season!

Now, let's drink a toast to "Two thousand and Twenty-Five – May it be a year of Resolutions for actively promoting Peace worldwide and Good Health Care for everyone!

Wishing a Happy New Year to You All!

Shirley

AND FINALLY....



*Reproduced by kind permission
of Andy Robb,
who invites you to visit his
'Derek the Cleric' Facebook page.*

©Andy Robb

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December



Monday 6th January *(and every Monday)*

Monday Meet - Shirley's 2:00 - 4:00

Tuesday 7th January

Community Lunch / Community Cinema 12:00

Wednesday 8th January

MU Wave of Prayer

Friday 10th January

Retreat - Dewsbury Minster 10:00-12:00

Saturday 11th January

Celebration service - Halifax Minster 3:00

Coffee & Cake - in Church 10:00-12:00

Eco Church Swap Stall

Sunday 12th January

Eco Church Swap Stall

Saturday January 18th

Rucksack Club Walk - Meet at church 10:15

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe - Conference Suite 12:30

Sunday 19th January

Rastrick Churches Songs of Praise - 4:00

Monday 20th January

Beer & Banter - The Four Sons 7:00

Tuesday 21st January

MU Branch 'Christmas Lunch in January'

Friday 24th January

Coffee & Conversation - Railway Bridge View 12:30-1:30

Friday 24th—Sunday 26th January

Big Garden Bird Watch

Wednesday 29th January

Rucksack Club AGM - Sturrock Room 7:30

Items for the February magazine to: stjohnsrastrickmag@gmail.com
by 9:00 a.m. Sat 25th Jan. please. Thanks.

Please see page 31 for the times and venues of the 'Moving On' Course.



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



Parish Calendar : <http://tinyurl.com/jcjrehp>



Facebook : www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine

Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere

Password : anywhere