

# St John the Divine Rastrick YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE



Bumper Edition

# December 2023

**Parish of St John the Divine, Rastrick**  
**St John the Divine, Gooder Lane, Rastrick, HD6 1HN**

**Vicar**

Rev'd Michelle Petch - 01484 710538 - michelle.petch2@btinternet.com

**Licensed Lay Minister**

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Jane Hearson - 01484 968774 - family.hearson@tiscali.co.uk

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**Hall Bookings**

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**PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH**

God of Mission who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
Help our churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment  
to you, and in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## 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
- 7:00 p.m. Beer & Banter Men's Group (1st Monday in the month  
at The Four Sons, Clough Lane) - Alan: 07756 035591

### 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
- 7:30 p.m. Mothers' Union (3rd Tuesday in the month)
- 8:00 p.m. Scouts

### Wednesday Service in Church

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

### Wednesdays in the Community Hall

- 6:15 p.m. Beavers
- 8:00 p.m. Wednesday Nighters (1st Wednesday in the month)  
in the Conference Suite.

### Thursdays in the Community Hall

- Brighthouse Community Cinema (3rd Thursday in the month).
- See press for times and film showing.

### Fridays

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

*Rev'd Michelle writes .....*



As December begins, we enter one of the busiest times of the Church's year - with Advent and then Christmas. Advent is a time of watching and waiting, leading into Christmas - a time of joy and celebration. It can be all too easy to lose sight of what's really important at this time of year, as we get lost in the busyness of sending cards, buying presents, decorating our homes and churches and so on.

But of course, it's not really about those practical preparations. It's about preparing our hearts and minds to welcome once again the Christ child. Immanuel, God with us. To wonder again at the astonishing fact that God made his home among us in Jesus.

There are various opportunities to reflect on this throughout Advent. For example, why not join us for the Advent reflections on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7pm at St Matthew's and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7pm at St John's. A time to step aside from the busyness of Christmas preparations, to be still before God, to wait and to reflect. There's something important about the anticipation and longing involved in waiting, making the celebration all the sweeter when it arrives.

And there are of course many opportunities to celebrate with joy as Christmas comes once again. You'll find details of all our Advent and Christmas services within the pages of this magazine, and there will be posters and flyers in church too.

May you have a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas.

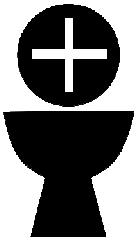
*Michelle*

## Special services & church information - December

**See following page  
for all the  
Advent and Christmas  
services**

### REMAINING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES FOR 2023

- ◇ Sunday 24th December 10:30 St Matthew's
- ◇ Sunday 31st December 10.30am St John's



### MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES IN DECEMBER

- Wed 6th December- 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 13th December - 10:30 - St John's
- Wed 20th December - 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 27th December - No midweek Communion Service

Please join Rev'd Michelle live on St John's Facebook page for Morning Prayer at 8.30am every morning Tuesday to Saturday



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

United Benefice of St Matthew's & St John the Divine, Rastrick



**A time of watching and waiting**

## **Advent Reflections**

**Tuesday 12th December**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St Matthew's, HD6 3NF**

**Thursday 21st December**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St John's, HD6 1HN**

## **Carol Singing**

**At Tesco, Brighouse**

**Saturday 16th December: 11am-12 noon  
(organised by the Rastrick Group of Churches)**

**Everyone welcome!**



United Benefice of St Matthew's &  
St John the Divine, Rastrick

# Christmas Services



Sunday 17th:

3:00 p.m.

Christingle & Nativity at St Matthew's

7:00 p.m. The Pensioners' Nativity at St John's

(both services followed by refreshments & mince pies)

## Christmas Eve Sunday 24th

10:30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion at St Matthew's

3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. Christingles at St John's

7:00 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Matthew's

11:30 p.m. Midnight Communion at St John's



## Christmas Day

9:15 a.m. All Age Holy Communion at St Matthew's

11:00 a.m. All Age Holy Communion at St John's

Sunday 31st: 10:30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion at St John's

## 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.

Prayer Ministry in December:

Sunday 17th December

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



## What are you waiting for?

'Waiting' is the theme for Advent

Contemplative Church in December  
At St Paul's, Shepley

**Here I Am** - Sundays at 6.00pm  
Dec 3rd Contemplative Communion  
Dec 17th Contemplative Service

### Still Tuesdays

Every Tuesday (come when you can, leave when you must)

- 10.00 Celtic Morning Prayer
- 10.30 Mini retreat – time for Creative Reflection
- 11.30 Coffee
- 12.00 – 12.30 Meditation – time of silence





## Daily Lectionary Readings December 2023

<b><u>Monday</u></b> <b><u>04-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b> <b><u>05-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b><u>06-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b> <b><u>07-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b> <b><u>08-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday</u></b> <b><u>09-Dec</u></b>
Psalms 50 Isaiah 25.1-9 Matthew 12.1-21	Psalms 80, 82 Isaiah 26.1-13 Matthew 12.22-37	Psalms 5, 7 Isaiah 28.1-13 Matthew 12.38-	Psalms 42, Isaiah 28.14-end Matthew 13.1-23	Psalms 25, Isaiah 29.1-14 Matthew 13.24-43	Psalms 9, Isaiah 29.15-end Matthew 13.44-end
<b><u>11-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>12-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>13-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>14-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>15-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>16-Dec</u></b>
Psalms 44 Isaiah 30.1-18 Matthew 14.1-12	Psalms 56, Isaiah 30.19-end Matthew 14.13-end	Psalms 62, Isaiah 31 Matthew 15.1-20	Psalms 53, Isaiah 32 Matthew 15.21-28	Psalms 82, Isaiah 48.12-end 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12	Psalms 145 Isaiah 35 Matthew 16.1-12
<b><u>18-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>19-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>20-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>21-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>22-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>23-Dec</u></b>
Psalms 40 Isaiah 38.1-8, 21-22 Matthew 16.13-end	Psalms 144 Isaiah 38.9-20 Matthew 17.1-13	Psalms 46 Isaiah 39 Matthew 17.14-21	Psalms 121, Zephaniah 1.1 – 2.3 Matthew 17.22-end	Psalms 124 Zephaniah 3.1-13 Matthew 18.1-20	Psalms 128 Zephaniah 3.14-end Matthew 18.21-end
<b><u>25-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>26-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>27-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>28-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>29-Dec</u></b>	<b><u>30-Dec</u></b>
Psalms 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]	Psalms 119.161-168 Acts 7.51-60 Matthew 10.17-22	Psalms 117 1 John 1 John 21.19b-25	Psalms 124 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18	Psalms 19 Jonah 1 Colossians 1.1-14	Psalms 65 Isaiah 59.1-15a John 1.19-28

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

Or use the C of E Daily Pray:

All readings in full can be found by downloading the 'Lectionary: from the Coffe' App on your mobile or PC

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedinerastrick>

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



## PRAYER PAGE

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

This month's prayer comes from Rev'd Michelle. She writes;

I found this prayer in a book of Advent and Christmas reflections written by Nick Fawcett, while preparing for the Christmas services. I offer it as a reminder to us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

Gracious God, at this time of giving,  
help us to offer the worship, thanksgiving, service and witness  
that you alone deserve.



At this time of receiving, help us to open our hearts to your gift of  
Christ, making his love and life our own.

At this time of joy, help us to celebrate the good news at its heart,  
the wonder of your coming in Christ  
walking our earth and sharing our humanity.

At this time of sharing, help us to reach out to those whose hearts  
are heavy, crushed by hunger, poverty, sorrow, and pain.

At this special time, open our lives to your transforming power,  
your love that is able to make all things new.

Take what we are, and direct what we shall become. Amen



# The Pensioners' Nativity

**Sunday**  
**17th December**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Inspired by a short story  
by Rev'd Jill Swallow

**St John the Divine,**  
**Rastrick,**  
**HD6 1HN**



A genuine  
**ALL AGE**  
Nativity  
with your  
favourite carols!

**Why should the children  
have all the fun?**

United Benefice of St Matthew's & St John the Divine, Rastrick

## MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

### FOOD BANK

The Foodbank is now collecting Christmas food items to go out in food parcels this month. Foodbank will also be providing some parcels for local schools to pass on to families they know are struggling.

Some suggestions include: mince pies, selection boxes, tins of chicken roll, cranberry sauce, custard, packets of stuffing, chicken gary mix.

Thank you for your generous support.



### ALLOCATION OF MONEY

Here is the recent allocation of Missions and Charities money  
Farm Africa (Urban Agriculture) to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia - £500

Salvation Army to support Christmas meals locally - £200

Operation Mobilisation – Mozambique - £250 to support a worker

Project Colt in Elland, a social enterprise which aims to change people's lives for good - £200

Central Methodist, Brighouse, Food Bank for Christmas and Winter, towards whatever is the greatest need - £200

Dementia Awareness in our area - £250

In addition, we send £40 to Nyakiswa, £30 to Turning Point and £10 to Hand and Mouth Ministries monthly by Direct Debit.

### NYAKISWA

A further £200 – Craft Fair and marmalade sales - has been sent to Leeds for Training Young People in our Link parish. There is currently £1652 in that account, which will be used when the new year starts in January.

### TANZANIAN LINKS IN LEEDS DIOCESE

Please see longer article on page 18.



Thank you for your continuing support.  
**Missions and Charities Committee**

The churches of St John the Divine and St Matthew's  
Rastrick

are seeking to appoint a

**Benefice Administrator (Part Time)**

This is an opportunity for someone with administrative skills to work with the Vicar and other lay leaders to provide administrative support to the benefice.

We would like to hear from you if you have:

- The ability to use ICT systems competently and creatively.
- Confidence in using social media and websites to promote events.
- The ability to work flexibly from home to manage competing priorities.

Terms: Fixed term (2 years) Hours: 6 per week. Salary: £4,120

For an application form and job description please email  
[info@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk](mailto:info@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 5pm



**RASTRICK CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Please could you help deliver the Christmas cards which are on the table at the back of church. The delivery of these cards is part of our **OUTREACH TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**, they give dates and times of all events up to Christmas being held in the three churches in Rastrick. If you can drive please think of the wider areas of the parish rather than just your local street. There is a large area of our parish where there are very few people, who attend church, live. It is important that **ALL AREAS** are covered

Barbara Rukin



## Warm Hands Appeal

During the Summer months, several knitters from St. John's with friends from near and afar, have been knitting mittens for infant and junior school children to wear on their journey to school.



175 pairs have been knitted with 150 now donated to Field Lane School, Longroyd School and Highbury School. Mittens will continue to be gratefully received for further donations.

Many Thanks.

Christine Whitaker

Stop Press!..  
another 70 pairs  
have been donated.

## Carol Singing in the Community



**Thursday 7th December:**  
Railway Bridge View 2.30 pm

**Wednesday 13th December:**  
St Winifred's 2.30 pm

**Friday 15th December:**  
Rastrick Hall and Grange 2:00 pm

**Saturday 16th December:**  
Outside Tesco 11:00 am

Come and join us!



## WALK BY MY SIDE

Walk by my side on life's rough paths.  
Walk by my side on the brightest days.  
My constant loving companion.

Give me moments when all I hear  
are sounds of rich bird song, rustling  
of leaves, waves lapping on the shore,  
sea birds wheeling and screeching.

Give me moments when all I see  
is rolling countryside, sandy beaches,  
cascading waterfalls, graceful butterflies  
poised on yellow and orange flowers.

Give me moments when all I smell  
is newly mown grass, coconut scent  
of gorse flowers, heady, intoxicating  
perfume of carpets of bluebells.

Give me moments when all I feel  
is sand between my toes, washed up  
pretty shells, creatures in rock pools,  
the gentle caress of a baby's hand.

Thank you for a time to stop,  
a time to wait, and a time to pray.  
My constant loving companion.

Margaret Ellis

## What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



Remembrance Service  
At Railway Bridge View



Eucharist for Peace



Succumbed to a rather  
nasty bug!



Leading the Worship at  
the MU Area Gathering  
at St John's.



Lunch 'with' the Mayor!  
Coffee and Conversation  
at Railway Bridge View



16 Days of activism against  
gender based violence:  
Leading the service at  
Huddersfield Parish Church



...followed by lunch in  
The Keys restaurant  
under the parish church.

## COMMUNITY LUNCHESES



This year we have held 10 Lunches with between 20 and 40 people enjoying the fellowship and good food provided by our Kitchen Team. Although we don't ask for any payment just a donation so it is open to everyone those who can afford and those who can't. People have been very generous and have given £850 this year we have given 50% towards the high cost of gas/electric and have supported Rob Burrows Appeal for MND £200, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance £75, Brighthouse Incredible Edible £75, and AFIA (the Mothers Union Away from it all holidays for deprived families) £75.

My great thanks goes to those who help each month never complaining and just getting on with the work. Margaret France, Margaret Hitchcock, Carol Sanderson and her sister Gillian without them it wouldn't happen.

I would also like to thank Focus4Help who provide a film show after the lunch which swells our numbers.

With my thanks for your support *Cherry*



## TANZANIAN LINKS IN LEEDS DIOCESE



Arthur & Melina

In September 2023, Arthur Mauya, the now retired Mara link Officer, Melina Galibona, the current Mara Link Officer and Bishop Moses of Rorya Diocese visited Leeds Diocese for 2 weeks. This was Bishop Moses' first visit to the UK and he made a big impact wherever he went with his easy manner and very good English. From the Upper Holme Valley to Darrington, from Halifax Minster to York Minster, Wakefield Cathedral to the 2 Liverpool Cathedrals, local churches to schools, he talked to people, attended a Beetle Drive and a BBQ and ate fish and chips. But the highlight of the visit for all 3 of our friends was an unplanned trip through the Mersey Tunnel. A tunnel under a big river?!!

Rorya Diocese is the smallest and poorest of our 3 Link Dioceses. When Bishop Moses was consecrated in 2021, Rorya was not in a good place. Many of his clergy were not properly trained or paid and churches did not have roofs. There are few, if any, proper roads and safe, clean water is in short supply. He has made an encouraging start with improvements and has good support from several parishes in Leeds Diocese with Halifax Minster supporting the Cathedral at Kowak. Bishop Moses is currently leading an evangelical mission going from village to village in his Diocese.

Arthur came on his farewell visit to say goodbye to his many friends and colleagues here and for those friends to say a heartfelt thank you for all the work he has done in the last 27 years. A full church at Battyeford was indicative of the esteem in which Arthur is held in Leeds Diocese. A monetary gift was given to him by Bishop Tony. Many people travelled long distances from Cambridge, Sunderland and the Forest of Dean to see Arthur, as he visited linked parishes and schools in Leeds Diocese. He spent time with Bill and Maureen Jones ( Bill was the first headmaster at Issenye Secondary School in Mara Diocese) and with the people of Luddenden, who have paid some of his medical expenses.

Arthur also attended services at St. Martin's Brighthouse and Luddenden. At the end of his time here, he was able to join in an assembly at Crigglestone Primary and have lunch at Chapelthorpe church. Both venues have a joint link with Ragata in Mara. We wished him goodbye with the hope that his health continues to improve and that he has a long and fulfilling retirement.

Melina arrived with 2 hats on – Mara Link Officer and Co-ordinator at the Safe House. She worked extremely hard in both roles. She gave talks about the Safe House at Aireborough Rotary Club, Warley St. John's, Wrenthorpe, Lupset, Rastrick St. John's, Brighthouse Inner Wheel and Bishop Tony's Breakfast in Wakefield. All her talks were very well received and stimulated much interest so much so, that recently there have been several generous donations to the Safe House. Melina also attended services at Ovenden and Wrenthorpe and spent a morning at Ackworth Howard Primary near Pontefract. She has a big job to do but her time here will continue to cement our links with the people of Mara, Rorya and Tarime.

Oriel

(I have fuller reports of the visit, if anyone wishes to read them)



With thanks to  
Rev'd Canon Michael Storey  
for the cartoon.





## ECO CHURCH



### Eco-tips for Christmas

If the words “Grandma” and “eggs” spring to mind, apologies!

Avoid buying new tinsel, shiny paper or anything with glitter on it – all sources of polluting plastic and unrecyclable

Reuse your artificial Christmas tree – ours is 33 years old!

Avoid buying Christmas crackers which involve a lot of wasteful packaging and plastic toys. You could always make your own.

When buying Christmas presents choose quality over quantity

Go second-hand for presents (see also Christmas jumpers)

Buy virtual gifts such as sponsoring a toilet, adopting an animal or funding a goat. Traidcraft has some good ideas.

Make your own Christmas cards or gift labels by reusing last year’s Christmas cards

Use recycled wrapping paper to wrap presents. Smoothed-out brown paper tied up with string or reused ribbons can look very chic!

Use greenery from your garden to decorate the house

Buy soy candles rather than synthetic wax ones

Avoid buying too much food that will go to waste – make a list

Buy local in-season fruit and veg (SPROUTS!)

Basically **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** in that order

John has an invitation to those who share his concerns:

“Under Rishi Sunak, the gap between what’s been promised on climate and what’s actually getting done has got way bigger.

I’ve just added my name to this open letter calling for the prime minister to actually deliver on his climate promise.

Add your name too before this letter heads to Rishi at the annual global climate gathering COP28”



<https://foe.uk/zdqd7>

## The Men of the Churches of Rastrick Host

**Beer and  
Banter  
2023/24**



**Mondays at The Four Sons, Rastrick 7pm**

- 27th Nov - Mission to Africa - Graham Wilford
- 15th Jan - Let’s talk Tyke - Rod Dimpleby
- 5th Feb - Trekking Majorca - Paul & Ken
- 4th March - Reflections - Bill Braviner
- 8th April - All things Eco - Norman Lake & John Hearson
- 13th May - Providing a Safe Space - Turning Point
- 3rd June - Music and Language - Graham Kennedy

**All Men Welcome**

Further Details call Alan 07756035591

***Pie and Peas!!***

## Pantomime Update

On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November we had the Pantomime Corporate Service in church with a very good turnout of panto members and relatives. There was great enthusiasm from the congregation for the whole service and I was extremely proud of everyone involved.

Before and after the service we held a Bacon Butty event which, as usual, proved popular with all who participated. Thanks to your participation we made a profit of just over £100 for our funds.

At the time of writing we have just had our first Dress Rehearsal and what a great rehearsal it was. Both Neil and I couldn't believe just how well it all went (let's hope we haven't peaked too soon).

I am still appealing for raffle prizes, so if you have anything you think would work as a raffle prize please let me know; to those who've already passed items to me, I thank you.

If you haven't yet got your tickets for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs please do so by ringing 07596 068413 or ordering on line at:-

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-pantomime-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-pantomime-society)

I guarantee that you will not be disappointed and with all the hard work put in by *everyone* involved, they all deserve to perform to full houses at every performance.

*Graham Readshaw*





# Come and sing carols!

Outside Tesco

Saturday 16th December

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

All welcome!



Organised by the  
Rastrick Group of Churches

## **CAROL SINGING AT TESCO SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 11AM - 12NOON.**

Please come and join with the churches of Brighouse and Rastrick in the foyer at Tesco for an hour of Carol singing or join in at any time.

We shall be assembling from 10.45am.. *Barbara Rukin*

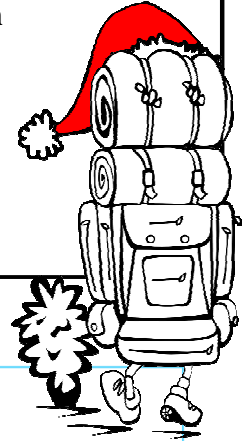
## RUCKSACK CLUB

### Rucksack Club Christmas Walk - 27th December

Please note that the walk will once again start / finish at Bradley Golf Club. As usual we are organising beef sandwiches and chips in the Clubhouse at 2.00pm The cost this year will be £8.50 per person.

If you wish to join us, could you please let me know ( 01484718013 or email - [rogmarg.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:rogmarg.ellis@gmail.com)) by Sunday 17th December and let me have the money with your request. Cheques should be made payable to St John the Divine Rastrick.

Roger Ellis



### ST JOHNS RUCKSACK CLUB ST JOHNS DAY WALK Wednesday 27th December 2023 10.45 start from Bradley Park Golf Club

A new walk starting from the Golf Club car park (*usual place*). It takes us over the golf course and down to the canal, back over fields and through the Scout Camp to the car park.

*Majority of the paths are good but some muddy sections.  
If the weather is kind some good views.*

**Meet and be ready to walk at 10.45am  
Length of walk about 2 and a half hours.**

*Leaders Eric Ogden and Keith Hallowell*







## Music News



We're now approaching one of the busiest but most rewarding season in our church's musical life. I'm really looking forward to the Pensioners' Nativity (*our very different Carol Service*) based on a short story by Rev'd Jill Swallow. The Rastrick Voices are presently rehearsing for that, and having to do a lot of the learning by themselves at home as we're always short of time! They're a talented bunch of people, and it's already sounding lovely. Enjoy special 'after' music following the blessing, as the Vicar walks down the aisle to the back! ...if we manage it!

Our Christingles are always a really lovely occasion, and for that we welcome back our 'seasonal players' in order to make a really festive sound, especially for the 'jazzy' numbers before the service. The highlight for me though, is always 'Away in a manger' sung by candlelight to a very simple flute accompaniment. The really festive, celebratory mood has changed to a deeply moving, spiritual one - all in the one service. Do come.!

Our Music Group is also busy at St. Matthew's for their Christingle, and the Voices will be 'on tour' singing at the Care Homes. This is open to anyone who fancies carol singing at the local homes. You can sing the tune! Dates below.

A busy but rewarding time as we celebrate, and worship God through our music-making!

*Pam*

### RASTRICK VOICES

We're looking forward to our 'Pensioners' Nativity'  
Our final rehearsal is: **Sunday 10th December**

#### 'Voices on Tour':

- ◆ Thursday 7th Dec 2:30 - Railway Bridge View
- ◆ Wednesday 13th Dec 2:30 - St Winifred's
- ◆ Friday 15th Dec 2:00 - Rastrick Hall & Grange

As last year, very informal - just come when you can - bring friends!





## MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS

The last couple of weeks have been very busy for the MU Branch here at St John's. Christine and Hilary have delivered hundreds of home knitted mittens to our local schools. There were requested for those children who do not have gloves and arrive at school with frozen hands and too cold to hold their pens and pencils. Knitting continues apace for those homeless in Leeds, for Focus for Hope and other places where they are most needed. Prison visits and support continues by many of our members, plus visits to Railway Bridge View.

The Branch is busy planning its 'Christmas Goodie Stall' which will be held on line....similar to the one we had during COVID. Members are invited to offer anything for sale and to send a photo of the item, or indeed a promise of an item e.g. Edwin's raised pork pies, with a suggested price for sale, to Julia. Then the document will be circulated to anyone and everyone, and the purchaser is then asked to contact the seller.

Also, there is an amazing hamper being raffled. Buy your tickets now from Margaret Hitchcock.

The MU also had a stall at the recent Autumn Fair to guess where the four treasures were hidden in the jigsaw! The jigsaw was made up by Stephen Hannam and there were two lucky winners!

As we enter the month of November, we are reaching the start of The 16 Days of Activism against domestic abuse. This is an annual international campaign starting on 25 November which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and it runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. Here at St John's, we are having an exhibition called The Souls of our Shoes which displays phrases spoken by the women who have fled from their homes. Each phrase is accompanied with a pair of shoes. For each of the 16 days Julia is sending round a Bible verse and a reflective thought taken from the MU Resources website.

On 25 November the Huddersfield Episcopal Area held an amazing reflective and thought provoking Service in the Parish Church in Huddersfield at 12.30 pm. This was followed by all those present standing outside the front of the Church doors in silence from 1.00 – 1.03 in solidarity with those who are abused, men and women. There were different women's organisations which attended who were very happy to partner with the MU and to take part in the Service in this show of unity.



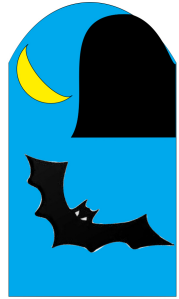
The silence was so loud, it spoke volumes echoed by the placards held by many saying “No More 1 in 3”. The sight of 40+ people, men and women, standing so still and silent encouraged passers-by to stop and read the messages displayed. We were fortunate to be mentioned on Radio Leeds and the TV crew from Look North were able to get some good footage and interviews. All of this promotes the need for greater awareness of the abuse, often which happens behind closed doors.

On Tuesday 21 November the Branch hosted the Area Gathering for the Branches in the Episcopal Area at which 50+ people attended. There was also a presentation by the Hand to Mouth Charity. The MU Members across the Area are so generous bringing so many knitted clothes, useful items for woman starting afresh in temporary homes or in Refuges. We have so much given. Thank you. It will all be distributed fairly across all of the organisations which support women.

We look forward now to our Wave of Prayer which happens at the beginning of January.

*With love to you all, Julia*

## ***PUZZLE PAGE** by the Bat in the Belfry*



Well, Christmas approaches. Hope you have an enjoyable one. If you have any spare time, try the following.

### **Number 23 – 5 Snow White**

This year's panto is Snow White, but how much do you know about the story? Try these.

- 1) Who wrote the original fairytale?
- 2) What are the dwarves names in the original tale?
- 3) In the original story, apart from apple, how does the Queen try to kill Snow White?
- 4) In the Disney film, what do the dwarves dig for apart from diamonds according to the song 'Heigh Ho'?
- 5) In the Disney film, which dwarf does not speak?
- 6) In the original story, what causes Snow White to come alive again?
- 7) In the original story what three birds visit Snow White's coffin?
- 8) In which year did Disney release the 'Snow White' film?  
1935, 1936, 1937, 1938
- 9) In the film, what colour was not in Snow White's dress?  
a) Red, b) Blue, c) Yellow, d) Green, e) Brown, f) White
- 10) Who is tasked with finding Snow White?

### **Number 23 – 6 Christmas Trivia**

- 1) Born on Christmas Day 1918, which ex President of Egypt?
- 2) On Christmas Day in 1950 what was stolen from Westminster Abbey?
- 3) Who popularised the Christmas tree in England in the 19th century?

- 4) Born on Christmas Day 1899 the famous actor who had the middle name DeForrest, who made his debut in the film The Petrified Forest in 1936?
- 5) Who wrote the song "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
- 6) Which word, associated with Christmas, comes from a Greek word meaning "we can act anything"?
- 7) Died on Christmas Day in which year Charlie Chaplin, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992
- 8) True or false: Traditionally German children are not allowed to see the Christmas tree until Christmas Day (which is celebrated on the 24th of December).
- 9) On what did Marley's ghostly face first appear to Scrooge in Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
- 10) True or false: The traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.



### ***Last month's answers***

#### **23-3 For all the saints**

- 1) Ian Ogilvy 2) St Matthew (the other three are all parishes on Jersey)  
 3) St Edmund 4) The White Dragon 5) Never Ever 6) Chesterfield, St Mary and All Saints. 7) Musicians, composers, instrument makers, and poets. 8) St Winifred (Winefride) 9) Didn't have an official name - Hospice Dogs, Alpine Mastiffs, Mountain Dogs, Swiss Alpine Dogs and St. Bernard Mastiffs and Barry dogs 10) St Roch

#### **23-4 Animals of War**

- 1) Warrior – Horse 2) Gustav – Pigeon 3) Tirpitz – Pig  
 4) Judy – Pointer 5) Kiri, Many – Elephant 6) Wojtek – Bear  
 7) Siwash – Duck 8) Jackie – Baboon 9) Jet – Alsation  
 10) Old Abe – Eagle



**ANSWERS NEXT MONTH**

## SHIRLEY...



### *Thy Will be Done on Earth*

I grew up in a working-class family during World War II, when my father was conscripted into the forces. The wars today are far more cruel than I remember from my childhood. Many towns were demolished by the Nazi bombers over here, making families homeless but somehow my life as a child was not as horrendous as the children in the Ukraine, Gaza and Syria are experiencing. They are enduring a living nightmare. We had food rationing, clothing coupons, dark streets and air raid warnings, but, we still played in the streets and enjoyed a very simple life.

I believe this was good grounding for me as a child to 'Waste not Want not' and I wonder if this ought to be encouraged more today at home, in school and in the workplace? What made me think about this is the sadness of learning that more and more people here are struggling to make ends meet. Why should this be happening today? Covid, Brexit or whatever, the cost of living is rising. Some people are unable to work for health reasons or have lost their job. Perhaps their rent or mortgage has become higher than their budget or they have not worked to a budget and lived on credit which has got out of hand due to excessive interest payment. Whatever the reason it must be a terrible situation to be in, particularly as Christmas approaches and the commercial world kicks in.

I feel sad for the families who are now having to use food banks. I hope if using similar charities this helps them to save some money. Perhaps buy shoes for the children which are not designer prices or visit the many charity shops and be fortunate enough to get what they need.

During the war old furniture was revamped and clothing restyled. As I said before, I was taught to waste not want not. This can also be a curse when wardrobes are full of clothes which appear dated or now the wrong size but kept just in case.... I have recently brought forth and worn some 'old' clothes and felt pleased with myself. I have also sent some down to the charity shop realising I would never be that size again!

I think we have to be strict with ourselves and say "no" to what we don't need. Ignore the temptation of exciting adverts which make us feel we are 'behind the times' by not updating our possessions. It can be an exciting challenge thinking of how we can economise and still feel in charge. Particularly now as Christmas is approaching. Perhaps also we can see opportunities to help others struggling at this time.

We want children to be excited. But are we too extravagant? Do we put ourselves under pressure in deciding how much to spend on our present giving? We don't want to appear mean but we could put others under pressure when they want to reciprocate. Let's learn from what Christmas is about.

***It is a time to welcome the Baby Jesus into our lives. Born to parents who had very little.***

***As He brings His Christmas gifts of Love and Hope to us, let us give thanks for what we have already received. Let us share our joy with those around us by showing we care for them too.***

**Wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy New Year**

From *Shirley* x

**AND FINALLY....**



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## 5th - 9th December

St John's Pantomime Society - Snow White

## Thursday 7th December

Carol Singing at Railway Bridge View 2:30

## Sunday 10th December

Rastrick Voices rehearsal 12:00 (ish)

## Tuesday 12th December

Annual Christmas Lunch

Advent Reflection at St Matthew's 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday 13th December

Carol Singing at St Winifred's 2:30

## Friday 15th December

Carol Singing at Rastrick Hall & Grange 2:00

## Saturday 16th December

Carol Singing at Tesco (Rastrick Group of Churches) 11:00-12:00

## Sunday 17th December

The Pensioners' Nativity 7:00

## Thursday 21st December

Advent reflection at St John's 7:00

## Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Benefice Holy Communion at St Matthew's 10:30

Christingles 3:00 & 5:00

Midnight Communion 11:30

## Christmas Day

All Age Holy Communion 11:00

## Wednesday 27th December

Rucksack Club Christmas Walk

More details of services  
inside the mag

Items for the January magazine.

to: [stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com) by 9:00 a.m. Sat. 30th December. Thanks.



Web site : [www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk)



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



Facebook : [www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivine)

## Wi-Fi

Network : everywhere

Password : anywhere