

St John the Divine Rastrick

£1.50



Your
Parish
Magazine

January 2024

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

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Licensed Lay Minister

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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 2024 begins I wonder whether you have made any New Year's resolutions.

Maybe you've resolved to get fitter after all the indulging at Christmas and you're planning to join a gym, or a slimming group, or to eat more healthily. Perhaps you've decided to cut down on how much you drink, on how much meat you eat, use less single use plastic, drive less and walk more, watch less television and talk more. The resolution list is endless.

We choose to take up a New Year's resolution because it will benefit us. It is a positive step in improving our life in one way or another, physically or mentally. But when we are looking ahead to the new and improved us, do we also consider our spiritual life? That part of us that constantly searches for the deepest meaning in life, the purpose for our existence, that connection with God our creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

Advent may be behind us, but I invite you to consider ways of hanging on to the periods of stillness and quiet that we try to create in our waiting. Moments of pausing and reflecting on where we have seen God throughout the day, learning to recognise God's actions in ourselves and others, as well as how we are being blessed. If we can cultivate this reflective approach, then it will lead us closer to God. What better new year resolution could there be than that!

If you're not sure where to start, there are ideas within the pages of this magazine. What about joining me live on Facebook at 8.30am each day Tuesday to Saturday for Morning Prayer; coming along to a midweek communion service; setting aside some quiet time each day for Bible reading and prayer; joining us for the monthly Coffee and Conversation at Railway Bridge View.

My prayer as we begin 2024 is that we will all resolve to find ways to draw closer to God.

With my prayers and every blessing.

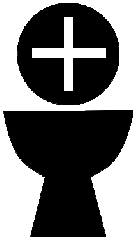
Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

SUNDAY SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - JANUARY

- ◇ Sunday 7th January - 11:00 - Epiphany - All Age Holy Communion
- ◇ Sunday 14th January - 11:00 - Epiphany 2 - Holy Communion
- ◇ Sunday 21st January - 11:00 - Epiphany 3 Holy Communion
- ◇ Sunday 28th January - 11:00 - Epiphany 4 - Holy Communion

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - JANUARY



- Wed 3rd January- 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 10th January - 10:30 - St John's
- Wed 17th January - 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 24th January - 10:30 - St John's
- Wed 31st January - No midweek Communion Service

SPECIAL - JANUARY

Sunday 21st January - 4:00 - SONGS OF PRAISE - St Matthew's

FORTHCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ Sunday 21st Jan. 4:00 - Songs of Praise - St Matthew's
- ◇ Wed. 14th Feb. 7:00 - Ash Wednesday - St Matthew's
- ◇ Thurs. 28th March 7:00 - Maundy Thursday - St John's
- ◇ Friday 29th March 7:00 - Good Friday - St Matthew's
- ◇ Sunday April 7th 10:30 - Joint Benefice - St Matthew's

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.

A very big personal thank you ...

- To everyone who helped out with services and events while I was ill in early December.
- To everyone who took part in and supported all our Advent and Christmas services.
- To everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes to myself and my family this Christmas.
- To everyone who decorated the church, served refreshments, prepared Christingles, made music, and contributed in any other way to our joyous celebration of Christmas.



You are an amazing group of people. Thank you and God bless you all.

Michelle



“Away in a Manger” at the 3:00 Christingle

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 the New Year.



“

Lord Jesus, I thank you that you are with me, that you are in me. Resolutions might come in one year and go out the other. Open my ears this year, so that I can hear you and enjoy you at every junction, when you tell me to turn right or left. Amen.”

**PETE BRISCOE,
EXPERIENCING LIFE TODAY**

womans day

Daily Lectionary Readings January 2024

<u>Monday</u> 01-Jan	<u>Tuesday</u> 02-Jan	<u>Wednesday</u> 03-Jan	<u>Thursday</u> 04-Jan	<u>Friday</u> 05-Jan	<u>Saturday</u> 06-Jan
Psalms 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Psalms 18.1-30 Ruth 1 Colossians 2.8-end	Psalms 127 Ruth 2 Colossians 3.1-11	Psalms 89.1-37 Ruth 3 Colossians 3.12 - 4.1	Psalms 8, Ruth 4.1-17 Colossians 4.2-end	Psalms 99 Jeremiah 23.1-8 Matthew 20.1-16
08-Jan	09-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan
Psalms 46, Genesis 1.1-19 Matthew 21.1-17	Psalms 8 Genesis 1.20 – 2.3 Matthew 21.18-32	Psalms 19, Genesis 2.4-end Matthew 21.33-end	Psalms 21, Genesis 3 Matthew 22.1-14	Psalms 67 Genesis 4.1-16, 25-26 Matthew 22.15-33	Psalms 29 Genesis 6.1-10 Matthew 22.34-end
15-Jan	16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
Psalms 145 Genesis 6.11 – 7.10 Matthew 24.1-14	Psalms 132, Genesis 7.11-end Matthew 24.15-28	Psalms 81 Genesis 8.1-14 Matthew 24.29-end	Psalms 76 Genesis 8.15 – 9.7 Matthew 25.1-13	Psalms 27 Genesis 9.8-19 Matthew 25.14-30	Psalms 122 Genesis 11.1-9 Matthew 25.31-end
22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan
Psalms 40, Genesis 11.27 – 12.9 Matthew 26.1-16	Psalms 34 Genesis 13.2-end Matthew 26.17-35	Psalms 45 Genesis 14 Matthew 26.36-46	Psalms 67 Acts 9: 1-22 Matthew 19:27-end	Psalms 61 Genesis 16 Matthew 26.57-end	Psalms 68 Genesis 17.1-22 Matthew 27.1-10
29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	01-Feb	02-Feb	03-Feb
Psalms 57 Genesis 18.1-15 Matthew 27.11-26	Psalms 132, Genesis 24.29-end Matthew 27.11-26	Psalms 95 Genesis 19.1-3, 12-29 Matthew 27.45-56	Psalms 99 Genesis 21.1-21 Matthew 27.57-end	Psalms 142 Genesis 27.41 – end 28 Matthew 27.57-end	Psalms 147 Genesis 29.1-30 Matthew 27.57-end

Join Michelle on line Tuesday - Saturday:

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

Or use the Church of England Daily Pray:

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

All readings in full can be found by downloading the 'CofE' App on your mobile or PC



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 as follows:

Sunday 21st January

Sunday 18th February

Sunday 10th March

Sunday 21st April

Sunday 19th 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)

Ivy Wilkinson would like to thank everyone from St John's and St Matthew's who came to George's funeral in August. The collection totalling £501 was gratefully received by Overgate Hospice. Ivy also thanks George's family and her own, and also the church family for all their continuing support of her".



GORDON BALMFORTH BEM

1951 - 2023

It is with great sadness that we say 'Goodbye' to Gordon who was one of our loyal organists for many, many years. Gordon always managed to make our organ sound good, even when it was struggling, simply by knowing which bits worked, and he helped us enormously when we were trying to raise funds to have it refurbished.

During Lockdown, Gordon came into church to play the organ in order to 'keep it going', and while there, also recorded voluntaries for our on-line Sunday services.

Gordon was a very accomplished musician, composer, conductor and musical director. He just enjoyed MUSIC in any form; he was as happy playing the great Father Willis Organ in Huddersfield Town Hall, as playing piano on tour with Roy Orbison. The musical groups he conducted and directed were as diverse as a Festival of Plainsong, Musical Theatre, Gilbert & Sullivan (*he had taken groups abroad to perform in Rome*), his vocal quartet 'Serenata', the group of young singer 'ReJoySing', and his fun group of ladies who called themselves 'RUGS' (*Really Useless...*) and who performed the most amusing musical sketches!

As a composer his works varied from opera to choral works, a piano concerto and a ballet, in addition to all his pieces for local groups. In 2015 he composed a 'Festal Evensong - Voces Sancti Ioannis' for the St John's Voices (*it was before we also became the Rastrick Voices*) which we sang as part of our centenary celebrations.

In 2018 Gordon was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) for his services to Music and Charity. His response at the time was, "You don't do these things to get awards, you do it because you want to do it. It's nice to know that it's appreciated, though."

An amazing man, but to us he will always be 'our' Gordon; the organist who could, and would play anything - usually with gusto!

Gordon's funeral is on 4th Jan. at Huddersfield Parish Church at 1:00.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Songs of Praise

A service of favourite hymns



The Anglican & Methodist
Church of St Matthew
Church Street, Rastrick.
HD6 3NF



**Sunday 21st January
4:00 p.m.**

Organised by the Rastrick Group of Churches

I am looking for volunteers to suggest their favourite hymn for the Songs of Praise service and to introduce it on the night, saying briefly why you have chosen it. Please speak to me if you can help. If you have not suggested a hymn at a previous Songs of Praise service, then your contribution on this occasion would be especially welcome. Thanks. Michelle

St. JOHN'S RUCKSACK CLUB

For further information please contact Rod direct

SATURDAY 20th January 2024

Leader - Rod France

Mobile - 07920238561

Leaving Church at 10.00am

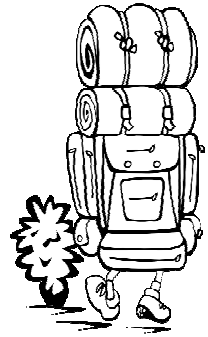
Leaving Bailiffe Bridge, Victoria Road at approx. 10.30am.
Ready and Booted

By car to Bailiff Bridge, Victoria Road. On roadside parking halfway up.

The walk will take you via the areas of Lightcliffe, Norwood Green, Judy Woods, Wood Park.

Returning via Royds Hall, Judy Woods, Lower Norwood Green and back to our starting point at Bailiff Bridge

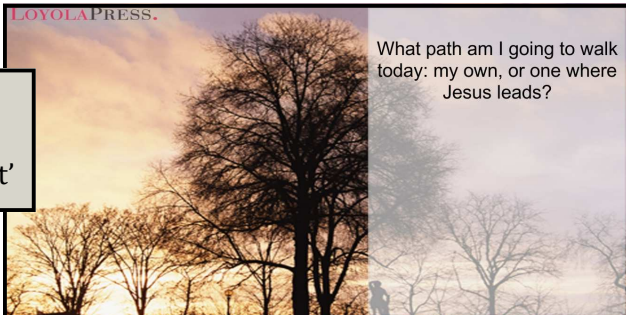
Note: If any walkers would like to join me after our walk for my usual end of walk Fish and Chips at the Golden Hind, Brighthouse. I will take your orders on the day of the walk.



The Rucksack Club Annual General Meeting will take place on
Wednesday the 31st January 2024 at 7.30, Sturrock Room
with a pie and pea supper.

Anyone wishing to attend please advise Roger Ellis

From the mobile
phone app:
'3-minute retreat'



VOICES ON TOUR - St John's in the Community

That heading is not completely correct...

Whereas the majority of the singers were from the Voices, others were welcome to join us at the Care Home Carol Services to sing carols, and they did!

Unfortunately, Rev'd Michelle was too poorly to join us for two of the services, but these were very ably led by Jane. In all of the carol services, there was a lovely atmosphere,

and my lasting memory is of the residents' wide-eyed, "Ooooh" when the little knitted baby Jesus was shown to them. It's been a Christmas for Nativity services!



*Some of the Rastrick Voices,
with other members
of the Church family
at Railway Bridge View.*

...and at St Winifred's

Some members of St John's also helped with the carol singing outside Tesco, organised by Barbara Rukin (who was also unfortunately ill on the day and couldn't join us - but we did have the Vicar back by then!)

It's been a privilege to be part of it all.

THE PENSIONERS' NATIVITY - December 17th 2023



What if Jesus had spent His three years of ministry with His disciples thinking “Oh God, these youngsters you’ve given me haven’t got a clue. Have you not got a few older people I can work with?” But no. Jesus worked with what He’d got. That’s our task too.

I wrote the Pensioners’ Nativity with this in mind some years ago. It was one of a series of pre-Christmas talks for radio which were broadcast up and down the country. I wanted to remind people that Christmas has always been for children of all ages. We never stop being children. God’s children.

So let’s hear it for old age. Remember, our older years give us a natural distance from our younger years. That’s good, because it is that very distance which can offer us a perspective we didn’t have, or couldn’t have at the time. It is that very sense of perspective which can offer us wisdom and insight. You see, at the time we can’t always see where God is, but older people can often look back on their lives and see all too clearly where He’s been. Older people are a great resource for our churches.

So remember, whether we are 21 or 91 we are all on the same road, and I’ve yet to meet anyone going the other way.

Rev Jill Swallow

Coffee and Conversation

January Date:
Friday 26th 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

What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



Carol Singing at Tesco



Spent a lot of time being poorly!



Five Christingles:
(Two for Carr Green School)



Care Home
Carol Services

Special
Coffee Morning
at St M's



Enjoying the
Nativity play at the
Pensioners' Nativity.



The Archdeacon and the Vicar



Annual Church Christmas Lunch
St John's



All the regular services

Welcomed Woodhouse School to St John's for their two Christmas services



Wrote the 'Thought for the Week' for the Brighthouse Echo, for each week in December.



Safeguarding Leadership Refresher Training (via Zoom!)



Went to the Christmas Extravaganza at the William Henry Smith School



The Rastrick Benefice from 17th - 25th!
(Sorry, it doesn't scan, and 6 & 7 don't 'work')

- Ten Church-based Worship
- Nine Lessons & Carols
- Eight service specials
- Advent Reflections
- Singing at Tesco
- Five school based 'gigs'
- Four Care Home Carols
- Three long Christingles
- Two All Age Communions
- ...and a Pensioners' Nativity



Toddlers' Party
St Matthew's



Nine Lessons & Carols
St Matthew's



MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS AND THE YEAR AHEAD

December seemed to be a quiet month for the MU Branch at St John's. It wasn't really but there seemed to be less meetings and more opportunities to worship at various different places and times. Although not MU led, there was carol singing at Railway Bridge View, Rastrick Hall and Grange and outside Tesco's. I'm sure that Pam and Michelle and the Rastrick Voices sang elsewhere as well. Singing carols is always a mood lightener for me and joyous. And in and amongst we had the online Goodie Stall and the famous MU Christmas Hamper raffle

2024

With the bustle and all the family activities leading up to Christmas and New Year it has prepared us for a very busy MU filled January and February!! I hope we all feel refreshed and ready for 2024 as Christ's birth signifies new beginnings and hopes.

We start the New year in wonderful style on **Tuesday 9 January at 11.00 am** in the Conference Suite with The Wave of Prayer. This is an international event stretching across all continents, and each Branch is given a set time to follow published Prayers for a range of Branches across the world and also within Great Britain. The Prayers last 30 minutes and when we finish, we metaphorically 'hand over' to another Branch in our Episcopal Area which follows the same readings, and so the wave of prayer waves on. We will then have a shared lunch together in the Conference Suite.



If you can remember and are so inclined listen to Radio BBC Leeds / York / Sheffield at **10 to 8 am on Sunday 7 January**, when I am fortunate to have got a 2-minute slot, similar to the Thought for The Day on Radio 4, when I will be talking about the Wave of Prayer. Only 2 minutes though so I cannot cover everything!!! My aim is for everyone to know about the MU as much as they know about the WI. Let me know please when we have achieved that!

Our Annual Branch Lunch is on **Tuesday 16 January at 1.00** at The Royal and Ancient....for details see Shirley.



Thursday 18 January we are all going to Railway Bridge View to participate in a craft session at 2.30 pm on the Ground Floor. Its always good fun, starting with some hymns and a reading, led by Revd. Michelle. Since we have moved downstairs into the reception area, we hope that more residents will join us.

On **Tuesday 20 February** we have our regular Branch Meeting and this incorporates our AGM.

Our AGM is followed by our Sunday Eucharist Service on **25 February** where the MU becomes more involved with the Service.

27 February will see our Church welcoming Branches and Members from all across the Huddersfield Area since we are hosting the Area Gathering from 12 noon.

Then a date for EVERYONE'S diary is the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March at 2.00 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel.

This is not just for MU Members and all Churches across the Rastrick and Brighouse Group of Churches are involved. Everyone is very welcome. The Prayers for this Service have been created by Women in Palestine, written many months ago, and we will be using several symbols to represent their lives and culture in Palestine, and praying for their country. Join us for this, and any of the other activities.



With love to you all, Julia



MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

NYAKISWA YOUTH TRAINING

Rose and Esther have now successfully completed their MU sewing and tailoring course, received their sewing machines and hopefully will be able to set up a small business. We have now trained 4 girls on this course.



In 2023, we have raised £1500+ to continue to support the Youth Training project in Nyakiswa. The vicar, Damien, Melina and I have discussed the next step and decided to offer support for 2 girls to do the secretarial course at the Diocese of Mara Vocational Training Centre (DMVTC) in Musoma. The Centre is situated next to the Cathedral in the Diocesan Offices complex. The costs are similar to the sewing course and include course fees, accommodation, expenses etc.

The £40 sent monthly to Nyakiswa from St. John's is currently being used to build a nursery classroom next to the church.

Thank you for your continued support

Oriel



SCAN ME

For those who have not signed up for the parish giving scheme please consider doing so. By giving in this way it saves a lot of admin time and also means that gift aid is claimed immediately. For further information speak to Cherry Fancourt or Alan Hoggard

Regular Giving by Direct Debit

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a secure and simple way of giving to Rastrick St John the Divine on a regular monthly basis (or quarterly or annually if you prefer). It works by making a Direct Debit from your bank account on the 1st of the month, which is credited to our parish bank account by the 10th of the month. If eligible, you can opt to add Gift Aid and PGS claims this on our behalf, passing it back to Rastrick St John the Divine which benefits our cash flow.

One-Off Giving

It is also possible to make a one-off gift online and add Gift Aid if you are eligible. Instead of setting up a new Direct Debit, you use a debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Scan the QR code to get started.

Three ways you can set up a regular gift with PGS

- The simplest way is online. Visit

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/rastrick-st-john-the-divine-brighthouse/> or scan the QR code above

- By phone: 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm

You will need your bank details to set up the Direct Debit and, for phone or postal applications, Rastrick St John the Divine's unique parish code 460646486.

**Thank you for considering this option in your support of
Rastrick St John the Divine.**



Music News

What an amazingly musical Christmas we've had at St John's! Although we've been busy, it's been a privilege and a pleasure for us to lead the music side of our worship in the various services.

The Rastrick Voices worked particularly hard to learn four carols in four rehearsals for the Pensioners' Nativity! (Admittedly, we **had** sung one of them before, and versions of two of the others, but it was still a big ask!) The completely new carol was the one we sang after the final Blessing; "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells". Jane suggested this, but she never expected me to find such a fun, but also such a complicated version, with hints of 'Ding dong merrily on high', 'Jingle Bells', 'Deck the halls' and 'Joy to the World'. I wonder whether you caught them all...?



I'm very fond and very proud of this amazing group of people!

The Music Group had the lion's share of playing as usual, as we provided the music for the two Christingle services. This involved not only playing for the service itself, but all the jazzy numbers leading up to the start of the service. (...both services!)

As usual, we were joined by our 'occasional' players, turning our usually gentle strings/woodwind/piano ensemble into a veritable jazz band:

- Karen, who always comes back from Selby to play at the Christingle although it's been quite a while since she moved away!
- Archdeacon Bill, who just MAKES IT on the drums!
- Rebekah, who is currently away at Oxford, being very clever at uni. (*and I believe has recently achieved a FIRST!*)
- ...and ALL the occasional singers!



My lasting memory, as always, will be the candlelit singing of 'Away in a Manger', with simple flute duet accompaniment.

It's wonderful to be able to make music, and to worship through music with such a talented group of musicians, ...and that naturally includes the singers! HUGE thanks to everyone who gives up their time to play on Christmas Eve. I honestly can't think of a better place I'd like to be.

Thanks too, to our loyal organists (pianists); Granville at Midnight and Philip on Christmas morning - absolutely vital to our Christmas worship! Who else noticed Granville play, "We wish you a Merry Christmas" as his 'after' music at midnight?

Pam



ECO CHURCH update

January 2024 – by John

Did you follow the progress of the COP28 talks in Dubai at the beginning of December?

You may have gathered that we're still pumping out greenhouse gases at a record-busting rate, and we're reaping the consequences. The rate of increase is slowing, but not fast enough. Surely, wouldn't the nations have come up with agreements to change course, to move away from fossil fuels as fast as we can?

Well, they finally *did* agree to 'transition away from fossil fuels', although they opened the door to dangerous distractions such as CCS (carbon capture and storage) and weakening of past commitments. Some countries pledged to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030 (including the US, UK and the EU). This is great news, but unless coal, oil and gas are phased out at the same time, we'll continue to fuel climate disaster.



Do you find this discouraging? I must admit, I do. But I'm very pleased to be connected with Tearfund. They were there, seeking to make delegates hear the voices of people who have lost their homes and livelihoods to climate change. They sent me prayer updates throughout the conference. And they were encouraged by several answers to prayer on issues they'd campaigned on. Here are two.

- The talks kicked off with positive announcements on finance for climate-vulnerable countries and communities. These included the UK Government pledging £60 million in 'loss and damage' funding.
- Australia and Norway joined the Clean Energy Transition Partnership, which is shifting billions of overseas public funding out of fossil fuels and into renewable energy every year.

Praying was something I could do, to influence the outcome. Jesus spoke a parable (Luke 18 vs 1-8) about a persistent widow and an unfair judge, saying “that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” The battle for climate justice needs every bit of that widow’s persistence. Let’s not be put off by the reluctance to act of ‘unfair judges’ - leaders who don’t put humanity first.

John Hearson

The Men of the Churches of Rastrick

**Beer and
Banter
2024**

Host



Mondays at The Four Sons, Rastrick 7pm

- 15th Jan - Let’s talk Tyke - Rod Dimbleby
- 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 Society

Panto; That's it for Another Year....

Well, not exactly! As anyone who is, or has been, involved with pantomime will know this is a year-round job with fund raisers, parish lunches, reading scripts, casting parts, sorting music and, finally rehearsing for three months to put on what is widely known as *"The Best Amateur Pantomime in Calderdale"*.

Taking a look back over this year's show I think that, if we are to believe the feedback from our loyal audiences, it can safely be classed as another success. Although the show was not what you



would call a truly traditional pantomime it generated rousing laughter, appreciation and applause at all the right places and showed the versatility of everyone involved in being able to adapt to something different. Written by one of my sons-in-law, Chris Gates, this first try at writing a pantomime ticked all the right boxes and proved to be a hit with cast, chorus, back stage staff and the production team as well as the appreciative audiences.

We again had new members working alongside our more established people in the cast and it was good to see 4 teenagers in our small, but beautifully rehearsed, chorus; we hope they will join us again next year. After one of the shows a member of the audience came to me and enquired "How do you get 15 year old lads to throw themselves around and make fools of themselves like they have been doing?" to which my reply was "Because they enjoy having fun and that is what panto is all about". Having said that there is an awful lot of time goes into ensuring that everything runs smoothly and to perfection with hours spent on what might appear to be just minor items of comedy, song or dance.

We were pleased to welcome back, only one week before curtain up, David, our drummer, after an absence of three years and it was lovely to see and hear the reception he received when he appeared at the rehearsal. We had some changes of Heads of Departments this year, but, again, everything worked very well; you don't always know what talent you have available until someone takes a break or steps down. The Production Team of Diane Davison (MD), Christie Hepke and Eleanor Readshaw-Senior (choreographers), Neil Denham (Assistant Director) and myself (Producer/Director) all work extremely well together, but we couldn't do it without all the other people involved including wardrobes, props, scenic artists, stage crew, sound, lighting, make-up, prompters, house managers, caller, publicity, ticket sales, programme design, shop, catering and, for the first time, bar staff. Take one of these people away and things start to crumble.

We are extremely fortunate as we have a mixed age committee (15 up to 80 years old) plus all the above mentioned people who just get on with their work to ensure that you have a fantastic night at St John's panto.

During the year we have installed new fixed lighting on the two front bars in the hall which should make the hall much more marketable and, hopefully, bring in more income for the church. For their efforts in ensuring that all was in place in time for show week (not an easy task) I offer my sincere thanks to Robert Brett and Stuart Sprowell for burning the midnight oil as they did.

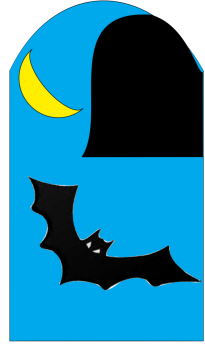
My final thanks go to our audiences, raffle prize providers and all the parents, who entrust their children to our care and help out in some amazing ways.

I look forward to seeing you all, plus some of your friends, in 2024 and take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year from the entire panto family.

Graham Readshaw (Secretary and general dogsbody)

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

Well, I trust everybody's Christmas is going well. Hopefully you've not had too much Christmas pud and mince pies. Try these two for New Year.



Number 24 – 1 My Batty Cousins

Well, it's all right for me, flying around my belfry, but how many types of British bat do you know? Below are anagrams of ten of them. Can you work them out? (The word Bat is not included)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) SAND ON TUBE | 2) TRIO SEEN |
| 3) PILE OR PRISON STAPLE | 4) COUNT M. MONOCLE |
| 5) ENERGY DRAG, LEO | 6) CHINS BESET |
| 7) CLEO, A HAT | 8) BEST BALL ERA |
| 9) HERR ROE, HOSE STAGE | 10) HID SKEWER |

Number 24 – 2 Mind Games

Can you solve these three mind puzzles?

- 1) NASA was considering sending canaries into space to study them under zero gravity. The project was scrapped when someone realized that in spite of having sufficient water supplies, they could die of dehydration within a few hours. Why?
- 2) Six glasses are in a row. The first three are filled with pineapple juice, and the last three are empty. By moving only one glass, can you arrange them so that the full and empty glasses alternate?
- 3) The day before yesterday Scheming Suzie was nine years old. Next year she will be twelve. How is this possible?

Last month's answers

23-5 Snow White

- 1) Brothers Grimm 2) They weren't named 3) Suffocation with a lacy bodice, and stab her in the head with a poisoned comb
 4) Rubies 5) Dopey 6) The piece of the poisoned apple flies out of her throat when the Prince's servants stumble with the coffin
 7) Owl, Raven and Dove 8) 1937 9) Green 10) The Huntsman

23-6 Christmas Trivia

- 1) Anwar Sadat 2) The Stone of Scone 3) Prince Albert
 4) Humphrey Bogart 5) Irving Berlin 6) Pantomime 7) 1977
 8) True 9) The door knocker 10) True

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH



SHIRLEY...

Happy New Year 2024

I have been looking back through 'old' magazines and found a Mothers Union programme of events for 2016! It informed me that on

September 19/26th 2016

Afternoon Tea to mark Church's 100 year celebration

Gosh, St John's Church is still here 108 years later, ready to plan and execute new ideas for the coming twelve months. I wonder what the congregations, all those years ago, would think of the Church today – our new servery and toilets, the screens making it easier to follow the service and soon to be heard once again our beloved restored organ? We also have more comfortable and brightly covered chairs which we would love to be used by more people wanting to share our services. They do get used for concerts in various forms and it would be lovely if the people who attend these would join us in worship too.

I've learned – (taken from the internet)

- ◆ That when you're in love, it shows.
- ◆ That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.
- ◆ That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- ◆ That being kind is more important than being right.
- ◆ That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- ◆ That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.
- ◆ That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- ◆ That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- ◆ That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- ◆ That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- ◆ That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

- ◆ That money doesn't buy happiness.
- ◆ That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- ◆ That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- ◆ That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- ◆ That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- ◆ That life is tough, but I'm tougher

Gosh, I couldn't agree more. Which one of the above 'spoke' to you?

We are into a New Year with new resolutions and the one about the toilet roll said to me that every year is precious. It is how we face each day, perhaps with a smile for everyone we meet or it is the small daily happenings that make life so spectacular and which we often take for granted. Each phrase gave us something to think about. The one about praying for someone we cannot help in any other way. God is there in all these sentences. He gave us our sensory reactions to experience them.

I've learned that starting the day with a prayer can make all the difference to how I tackle it.

Wishing you A Happy New Year!

Shirley x



AND FINALLY....

The pastor's family was invited to dinner at the Wilson home. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Peter, wait until we say grace,' insisted his embarrassed father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Peter,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Peter explained, 'but this is Mrs. Wilson's house, and she knows how to cook!'

Dr Larry Petton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 4th January

Final 'Romans' session 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 9th January

MU Wave of Prayer - Conference Suite - 11:00 a.m.

Monday 15th January

Beer & Banter (Let's talk Tyke) The Four Sons, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 16th January

MU Annual Branch Lunch - Royal & Ancient - 1:00

Thursday 18th January

MU Crafts - Railway Bridge View - 2:30

Saturday 20th January

Rucksack Club walk - 10:00

Sunday 21st January

Songs of Praise (St Matthew's) 4:00

Friday 26th January

Coffee & Conversation at Railway Bridge View 12:30

Wednesday 31st January

Rucksack Club AGM - 7:30

Items for *the* February magazine.

to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com by 9:00 a.m. Sat. 27th January. Thanks.



Web site : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



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



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