

St John the Divine Rastrick Your Parish Magazine

Fields above Lillands

£1.50

February 2024

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

Vicar

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Hall Bookings

Christine Whitaker - 01484 710952 - bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

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 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 month)

Wednesdays in the Community Hall

- 6:15 p.m. Beavers
- 7:30 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



Jesus said, 'Take up your cross and follow me'. Mark 8:34.

As February begins, we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas to give its shorter and snappier title. It marks a pivotal moment in the church's calendar as we leave behind Christmas and turn towards Lent and the cross.

And on Wednesday 14th February we enter that solemn season of Lent as we mark Ash Wednesday. As usual there will be two opportunities to attend church on that day to receive communion and to receive the sign of the cross on the forehead as a sign of our willingness to take up our cross and follow Jesus, not only through the following six weeks of Lent, but for the rest of our lives. There will be a said service at St John's at 10.30am or a sung service at St Matthew's at 7pm. Both of these are joint benefice services. Can I strongly encourage you to attend one or other if you are able.

As in previous years I will also be offering the opportunity during Lent for a Spiritual Spring Clean. This is a one-hour conversation with me in confidence about anything that might be causing a blockage in your spiritual life or if you have questions or doubts about faith that you would like to discuss. Please let me know if you would find this helpful and we will arrange a suitable time to meet.

Jesus said, 'Take up your cross and follow me.'

May we take every opportunity to do so this Lent as we journey on together with Jesus and with one another.

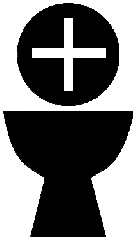
With my prayers and every blessing,

Michelle

SERVICES AND CHURCH INFO

SUNDAY SERVICES at St. JOHN'S - FEBRUARY

- ◇ Sunday 4th Feb. - 11:00 - Candlemas - All Age Holy Communion
- ◇ Sunday 11th Feb. - 11:00 - Sunday next before Lent - M.W.
(ECO Church - Saving Creation Sunday)
- ◇ Sunday 18th Feb. - 11:00 - 1st Sunday of Lent - Holy Communion
- ◇ Sunday 25th Feb. - 11:00 - 2nd Sunday of Lent - Holy Communion



MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES - FEBRUARY

- Wed 7th Feb. - 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 14th Feb. - 10:30 - St John's
- Wed 21st Feb. - 10:30 - St Matthew's
- Wed 28th Feb. - 10:30 - St John's

SPECIAL - FEBRUARY

Wednesday 14th Feb. - 7:00 - ASH WEDNESDAY (St. Matthew's)

FORTHCOMING UNITED BENEFICE SERVICES

- ◇ 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.

Rastrick Group of Churches

LENT GROUPS 2024

From the week commencing 19th February



A Lenten Journey through the Lord's Prayer

Using the Lord's Prayer as a basis we will explore prayer using the following topics with practical examples that help us to pray.

Session 1: Adoration: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" – How can we enjoy God's presence?

Session 2: Petition & Intercession "Give us this day our daily bread" - unpacking the significance of asking God in prayer.

Session 3: Unanswered Prayer "Your will be done" - tackling the challenges and realities when our prayers aren't answered.

Session 4: Listening - "Give us this day our daily bread" - practical ways we can tune into hearing God's voice.

Session 5: Spiritual Warfare "Deliver us from evil" - the ways we can pray God's kingdom Come in the midst of a spiritual battle!

Sign up now – Leaflets in Church.

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 has been chosen by Rev'd Michelle.

A prayer as we enter the season of Lent:

God of our deepest selves, as we walk with Jesus in
the wilderness,
as we face our fears and doubts, as we leave behind
all that has weighed us down,
may we tread with lightened step, through the forty
days of Lent,
knowing that we are dust and to dust we shall
return,
but will come to Easter filled with joy,
knowing that we are loved and meant for life with
you for ever. Amen

It's from a book of creative liturgies for Lent, Holy Week and Easter by Chris Thorpe which I've often dipped into over the years and found useful for prayer and reflection during the Lenten season.

It sums up well for me the whole of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Daily Lectionary Readings February 2024

<u>Monday</u> <u>29-Jan</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>30-Jan</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>31-Jan</u>	<u>Thursday</u> <u>01-Feb</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>02-Feb</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>03-Feb</u>
Psalms 57 Genesis 18.1-15 Matthew 27.11-26	Psalms 132, Genesis 24.29-end 1 Timothy 6.11-end	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 2 Timothy 2.14-end	Psalms 147 Genesis 29.1-30 2 Timothy 3
<u>05-Feb</u>	<u>06-Feb</u>	<u>07-Feb</u>	<u>08-Feb</u>	<u>09-Feb</u>	<u>10-Feb</u>
Psalms 1 Genesis 29.31 – 30.24 2 Timothy 4.1-8	Psalms 5 Genesis 31.1-24 2 Timothy 4.9-end	Psalms 119.1-32 Genesis 31.25 – 32.2 Titus 1	Psalms 14, Genesis 32.3-30 Titus 2	Psalms 17, Genesis 33.1-17 Titus 3	Psalms 20 Genesis 35 Philemon
<u>12-Feb</u>	<u>13-Feb</u>	<u>14-Feb</u>	<u>15-Feb</u>	<u>16-Feb</u>	<u>17-Feb</u>
Psalms 27, 30 Genesis 37.1-11 Galatians 1	Psalms 32, 36 Genesis 37.12-end Galatians 2.1-10	ASH Wednesday St Johns 10:30am St Matthews 7pm	Psalms 77 (or) 37* Genesis 39 Galatians 2.11-end	Psalms 3, 7 (or) 31 Genesis 40 Galatians 3.1-14	Psalms 71 Genesis 41.1-24 Galatians 3.15-22
<u>19-Feb</u>	<u>20-Feb</u>	<u>21-Feb</u>	<u>22-Feb</u>	<u>23-Feb</u>	<u>24-Feb</u>
Psalms 10, 11 Genesis 41.25-45 Galatians 3.23 – 4.7	Psalms 44 Genesis 41.46 – 42.5 Galatians 4.8-20	Psalms 6, 17 Genesis 42.6-17 Galatians 4.21 – 5.1	Psalms 42, 43 Genesis 42.18-28 Galatians 5.2-15	Psalms 22 Genesis 42.29-end Galatians 5.16-end	Psalms 59, 63 Genesis 43.1-15 Galatians 6
<u>26-Feb</u>	<u>27-Feb</u>	<u>28-Feb</u>	<u>29-Feb</u>	<u>01-Mar</u>	<u>02-Mar</u>
Psalms 26, 32 Genesis 43.16-end Hebrews 1	Psalms 50 Genesis 44.1-17 Hebrews 2.1-9	Psalms 35 Genesis 44.18-end Hebrews 2.10-end	Psalms 34 Genesis 45.1-15 Hebrews 3.1-6	Psalms 40, 41 Genesis 45.16-end Hebrews 3.7-end	Psalms 3, 25 Genesis 46.1-7, 28-end Hebrews 4.1-13

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 'Lectionary: from 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 18th February

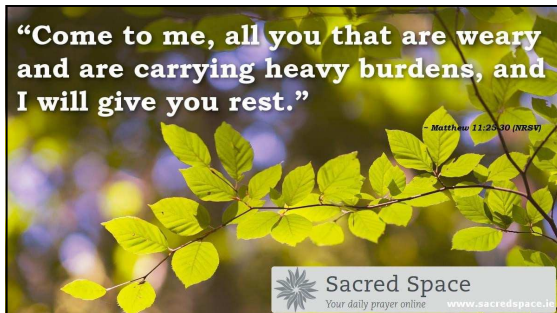
Sunday 10th March

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)

From the mobile
phone app:
'Sacred Space'

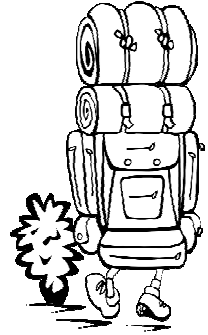


St. JOHN'S RUCKSACK CLUB

AROUND MARSDEN and PULE HILL - 5 Miles

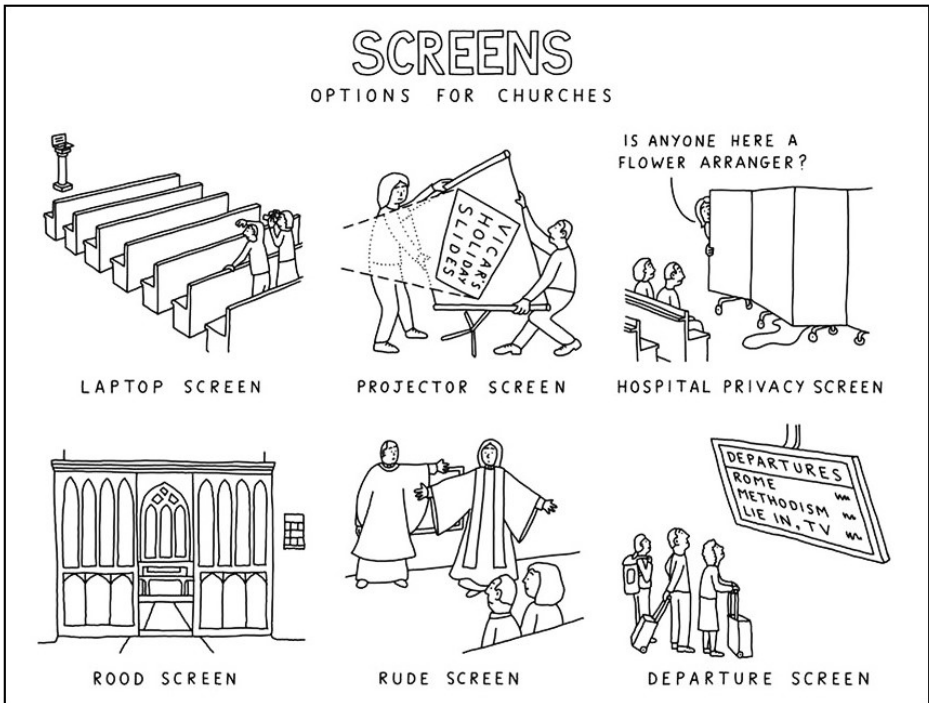
Saturday 17th February 2024 9.30am from Church

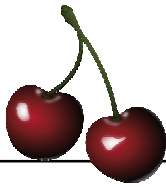
Park in the National Trust car park in Marsden.
Could be windy, hopefully dry underfoot, visiting one
of the Stanza Stones along the way. Good views



Leaders - Judith and Eric Ogden 01484 716652 : 07811 959881

Screens can be temperamental. Thanks to Rev'd Canon Michael Storey for this cartoon by Dave Walker, published in the January Church Times.





Cherry

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch is on Tuesday 6th February.
All welcome. (No charge - donations much appreciated)

Cherry



COFFEE & CHAT

The next Coffee & Chat
is on Saturday 10th February, in church.

Cherry



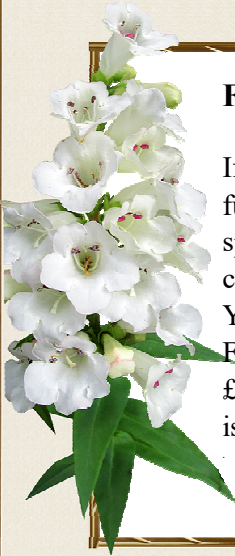
FLOWERS IN CHURCH

If you would like to donate money to the flower fund to remember a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion, there is a yellow list on the church notice board for you to sign.

Your donation needs to be given to Cherry with FLOWER FUND written on the envelope.

£25 would be lovely but whatever you can give is fine.

Barbara Rukin.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!



I beg you, bear with
one another in love

World Day of Prayer

There will be a Service to mark this day

on **Friday 1st March**

at **2.00 pm**

In the Salvation Army Citadel,
King Street,
Brighouse,
HD6 1NX

**Everyone is
very welcome**

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • PRAYER MOVEMENT • ECUMENICAL INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

A Vicar, a Rabbi and a Priest walk into a bar.
The barmaid says: 'Is this some kind of joke?'

With thanks to St Faith's, Great Crosby

The Men of the Churches of Rastrick

**Beer and
Banter
2024**

Host



THE FOUR SONS INN



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

- 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

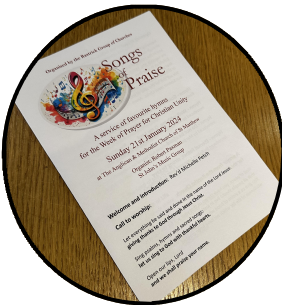
Pie and Peas!!

What the Vicar got up to last month

Just a selection...



MU Service and crafts
at Railway Bridge View



Organised and led the Songs of Praise service
for the Week of Christian Unity
on behalf of the Rastrick Group of Churches

January
Coffee and
Conversation
at
Railway Bridge
View



Coffee and Conversation

**February Date:
Friday 23rd February
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**



ECO CHURCH

REFUSE - Or how to become an activist

I've just read "Wasteland - the dirty truth about what we throw away, where it goes, and why it matters" by Oliver Franklin-Wallis. You may have heard an abridged version on Radio 4 earlier this month and if you want to read it yourself the book is available at Rastrick Library. There is a great deal that is wrong about the way we all treat our waste that is not the fault of individuals not doing their recycling properly. It is about big corporations and governments misleading us with "greenwashing" and it's also about better off countries exporting their waste to less well-off countries. Waste management is often poorly regulated allowing dangerous and criminal practices to proliferate. Yet there are many groups and organisations making an actual difference. Recycling *can* work though it will always come up against physical limits such as plastics that can only be recycled a handful of times. Zero waste may not be possible, but we can reduce the torrent to a trickle. Individuals have a part to play in this, but multi-nationals and governments need to do much more and we need to hold them to account.

So we still need to: REDUCE – buy less, resist advertising

 REUSE - mend more, buy second-hand

 RECYCLE – Suez does actually get a thumbs up

And here's another "R"- REFUSE – become an activist. We don't need to be Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough or Chris Packham or glue ourselves to roads, but we can *refuse* to accept that there is nothing we can do to influence the political and business decisions that are driving climate change and causing the tsunami of waste. Here's a few ideas:

- Write to your MP (and with a General Election on the horizon it's a good time to do it).
- Contact the CEOs of companies to complain about their wasteful and climate harming practices
- Sign petitions about waste and climate change

Here are a couple of events coming up in the next few weeks which you might consider supporting:

Christian Aid Vigil for Climate Change 14th to 24th February in association with Christian Climate Action and Tearfund. The actual vigil will take place outside the Houses of Parliament but there is also a prayer pack to enable people to be involved virtually.

The Big Plastic Count 11-17 March organised by Greenpeace. This involves completing a tick list of the plastics used in your house over one week.

To contact our current MP email craig.whittaker.mp@parliament.uk
Contact the CEOs of Sainsbury's and Tesco's by emailing simon.roberts@sainsbury's.co.uk and ken.murphy@tescos.co.uk.
Other supermarkets are available!

Rosemary Lake



Saving Creation Sunday 11th February

Guest Speaker - Bev Playle, Huddersfield Area Eco Champion.
And we need your help!

After the service we'll be running a Swap Stall. Before the service, please bring two good quality items that you no longer need, e.g. a T-shirt, jumper, mug or ornament. In return, we hope *you'll* find something to take home.

We invite everyone to provide a small item for a **LOAF** snack – in which, as far as possible, the ingredients are **L**ocally produced (UK), **O**rganic, **A**nimal friendly (veggie or free range) and **F**airtrade (if the option exists). Two examples:

- an egg sandwich in which the bread is made with organic flour, the eggs being free range.
- two scones made using organic flour, fairtrade raisins and homemade jam.

You can find more detailed tips at

<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes>

John Hearson



MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS!

We started 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. The Prayers which we were given this year were wonderful and centred on 5 Dioceses with which we are linked across the world. Each prayer gave us an insight into what life is like and we were challenged as we read the statistics about the age ranges of their populations. For instance, in Nigeria 40% of the population is under 14 years old, in the Solomon Islands 96% of the population are Christian and 70% are under 30 years. I will start to include reference to this on my email automatic signature.



We had a very enjoyable Annual Branch Lunch on **Tuesday 16 January at 1.00** at The Royal and Ancient....to be recommended as a great place to go!



On Thursday 18 January we went to Railway Bridge View to spend some time with the residents there. We were led by Rev'd. Michelle and started with a reading from Jeremiah about the potter and a lump of clay. We were reminded that we should put our trust in God and allow Him to shape us as we walk alongside Him.

We then sang Spirit of The Living God which was quite breathtaking since there were quite a number of Residents with us and their male and female voices soared!



Under the guidance of Gillian and Carol we and the Residents made salt dough and then shaped the resulting dough into a variety of shapes. We had so much fun and I think the residents did as well!! They were able to take back to their rooms some very credible painted animal shapes and examples of their work. Thank you Gillian and Carol.

On **Tuesday 20 February** we will have our AGM at which, amongst the regulatory business we will also enrol Sheila Richmond. Welcome Sheila, we are fortunate to have you as a future Member. Our AGM is followed by our Sunday Eucharist Service on **25 February** at which we will see a short video about the MU.

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 but for all Churches across the Rastrick and Brighouse Group of Churches. 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

Oriel has received photos of the the two girls who will benefit from the secretarial course for the next 3 years.

Both are 19 years old and their names are Kamange and Kefline. They have completed 4 years of secondary education.



CENTRAL FOODBANK

The Foodbank is very grateful to all at St. John's Church for their kindness and generosity.

Please note that at the moment

we have an excess of cereal, pasta, soup and beans.

However, we are currently in need of:

- small jars of coffee
- tins of macaroni cheese
- tins of ravioli
- small steamed puddings
- jams/marmalade
- packets of mashed potato



Thank you so much..



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

After all the music making during Advent and Christmas, January was a little less busy - but only just! The dark January days were brightened by the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and our celebratory Songs of Praise, ...celebrating the unity we experience between our local churches. This was the third year in which the Rev'd Michelle had organised a Songs of Praise - I think it's become a Rastrick tradition!

The Rastrick Voices led the singing, the Music Group provided the music for 'their' hymns, and the organ hymns were played by Robert Paxman. If you thought he looked familiar, you last heard him playing at our 'Organ Music for a May Evening' event in 2015, which was our first big fundraiser for the organ, or you may even have remembered him from our trips to sing in the Pit Village Chapel at Beamish.

The introductions to the hymns were both interesting and varied.

Despite the awful weather, we all came together to celebrate our unity with a **GOOD SING!**



Songs of Praise

Psalm 100

1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Pam



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH & PARISH CENTRE

PRESENT A

CABARET EVENING

NICOLA MILLS

SINGS

POPULAR OPERA

AND

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

INTERSPERSED WITH ANECDOTES

FROM HER LIFE IN OPERA

plus 'Songs for the Soul' from The Space Singers

Date: 16th March, 2024 - 7.30pm

Venue: Rastrick Parish Centre, Church Street, HD6 3NF

Tickets £10 inc Glass of Wine or soft drink, plus nibbles

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH AND THE SPACE @

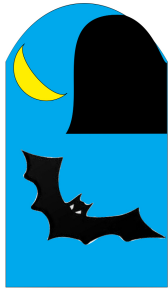
FIELD LANE OR TEL. 07769 710623

PUZZLE PAGE by the Bat in the Belfry

February already. Can Spring be far behind.
Try these two if it's cold and wet outside.

Number 24 – 3 Tweet, Tweet

Well, I hope some of you managed the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Let's see how much you know by trying to answer these questions. The answers all relate to British birds.



- 1) The Anglo-Saxon name for which bird was the ruddock?
- 2) During its characteristic hunting stoop, which bird is the fastest member of the animal kingdom?
- 3) Which colour heart-shaped face is a distinctive feature of the Barn Owl?
- 4) DNA studies have uncovered a shocking sister relationship between flamingos and which other bird (although it shows no resemblance)?
- 5) Which bird is also known as a Hedge Sparrow or Hedge Accentor?
- 6) Which birds are informally divided into four groups: fish, booted, snake and giant forest?
- 7) Which bird has the scientific name *Pica pica*?
- 8) What's the collective noun for a group of ravens?
- 9) 'Halcyon' is a name for a bird in Greek legend associated with which group of birds?
- 10) Which species of owl is the world's most widespread landbird species (it occurs in every continent except Antarctica)?



Number 24 – 4 Biblical origins

Below are clues to ten popular words and phrases that originate in the bible. Can you work them out?

- 1) Someone who is bitter about something unobtainable.
- 2) An immoral and troublesome woman.
- 3) A difficult initial experience.
- 4) A hardship or burden someone must endure.
- 5) Something that happens very quickly.
- 6) To fall out of favour.
- 7) The last possible moment before it's too late to act or intervene.
- 8) To achieve something that otherwise seems impossible.
- 9) A blemish. A small imperfection or flaw that diminishes the quality of the whole.
- 10) Very narrow margin of completion.



Last month's answers

24 – 1 My Batty Cousins

- 1) Daubentons 2) Serotine 3) Soprano Pipistrelle
- 4) Common Noctule 5) Grey Long Eared 6) Bechstein
- 7) Alcatheo 8) Barbastelle 9) Greater Horseshoe 10) Whiskered

24 – 2 Mind Games

- 1) Birds, unlike humans, need gravity to swallow. Humans can swallow even hanging upside down.
- 2) Pour the pineapple juice from the second glass into the fifth glass.
- 3) The statement was made on January 1st and Suzie's birthday is on December 31st. Therefore Suzie was 9 the day before yesterday (December 30th), she was 10 yesterday (December 31st), and later on this year she will be 11. Therefore it stands to reason that next year she will be 12.

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

SHIRLEY...

February - Here's to a month filled with love, laughter, and success.

The festivities and celebrations of Christmas and New Year are over. What now? "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. Not for some but for everyone". It will be Valentine's Day on the fourteenth of February, traditionally a celebration of love. We could celebrate this year in its wider sense. What about a smile and hello as we pass someone in the street. We may be the only person who has acknowledged them all day. What about a hug for family members and friends. They may look surprised but inside I am sure they will be pleased. We could call on the neighbour who lives alone and offer help or take a cake. For the special person in your life, I am sure you will know the right decision! I thought I would continue the lyrics of the song: -

Lord, we don't need another mountain
 There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb
 There are oceans and rivers enough to cross
 Enough to last 'til the end of time

Lord, we don't need another meadow
 There are cornfields and wheatfields enough to grow
 There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine
 Oh listen, Lord, if you want to know

What the world needs now is love, sweet love
 It's the only thing that there's just too little of
 What the world needs now is love, sweet love
 No, not just for some, oh, but just for every, every, everyone.

(Hall David 1965)

The comments on oceans and rivers, cornfields and wheatfields make me think of the pollution we create. We need to love our environment too!

However, looking out of the window this morning I felt reassured. The sun was shining and the cloudless sky was a lovely shade of blue. I also noticed that the borders around the lawn were changing from a dull, brown soil to a mottled green of sprouting leaves, heralding some spring flowers which were ready to burst forth with colour to join the white snowdrops and hellebores. Spring is slowly reawakening. It seems Nature has ignored the frost and fierce winds and God is continuing to work His purpose out, as year succeeds to year. We have heard that phrase before, I know, but it is true. No matter what trauma Nature has faced over the centuries, life force continues. That is the reassurance we have as we look to the coming months.

Shirley x

AND FINALLY....



With thanks
to Facebook

No, you can't!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th February

Beer & Banter (Trekking Majorca), The Four Sons - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 6th February

Community Lunch - 12:00

Wednesday 7th February

Service at St Winifred's - 2:30

Saturday 10th February

Coffee & Chat in church - 10:00-12:00

Sunday 11th February

Saving Creation Sunday

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday service at St Matthew's - 7:00 pm.

Thursday 15th February

Holy Communion at Railway Bridge View

Saturday 17th February

Rucksack Club Walk - 9:30

'The Mission' - Bring & Share lunch and film

Monday 19th February

Lent Groups start (groups meet on different days in the week)

Tuesday 20th February

Mothers' Union AGM

Friday 23rd February

Coffee & Conversation at Railway Bridge View 12:30

Saturday 24th February

'The Mission' film review with coffee & cake, 2:00- 4:00

Sunday 25th February

MU Sunday Eucharist

Tuesday 27th February

MU Area Gathering - 12:00

Friday 1st March

World Day of Prayer (Service, Salvation Army - 2:00)



Items for the March magazine.
to: stjohnsrastrick.mag@gmail.com by 9:00 a.m. Sat 24th February. Thanks.



Website : www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk



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



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